

# THE ATHLETIC

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 2032.

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1866.

PRICE  
THREEPENCE  
Stamped Edition, 4d.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.**  
The EVENING CLASSES for Classics, Modern Languages, Mathematics, Physical Science, Chemistry, History, Geography, Education, the various branches of Law, and other subjects, will commence on MONDAY, October 15th.  
The Prospectus, containing full particulars of these Classes, may be obtained on application, either personal or by letter, at the Office of the College, Gower-street, W.C.  
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.**  
The SESSION of the FACULTY of ARTS and LAWS will open on MONDAY, October 8th. Introductory Lecture, by H. J. ROBY, M.A., Professor of Jurisprudence, at 3 o'clock.  
Prospectuses concerning the Classes, Exhibitions, and Scholarships may be obtained at the Office of the College.  
CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

**MATRICULATION EXAMINATION of the UNIVERSITY of LONDON.**—The Subjects of Study in Prof. Malden's Junior Class of Greek, Prof. Seely's Junior Class of Latin, and Prof. Cassal's Class of French, between October 8th and 15th, will be respectively—Ogyssey, Book XXII.; Sallust, Jugurtha; V. Hugo's Hernani, and Sainte's Pielola.—Fees for Greek and Latin, 4s. each; French, 3s. 3d.  
In Evening Class, to be held at the College, by H. J. ROBY, M.A., Greek, E. R. Horton, M.A., or Talford Ely, M.A.; French, Prof. Cassal.—Fees for each Class, 1s. 1d.

The first part of Prof. Williamson's Course of Chemistry, and of Prof. Foster's Course of Experimental Physics, will include those parts of the respective subjects which are required for the Examination.—Fees for Chemistry, 3s. 3d.; Experimental Physics, 3s. 13s. 6d.  
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CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

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Fees—Session, 36s. 5s.; six months, 18s. 15s.; three months, 10s. 10s., one month, 6s. A deduction of 40 per cent. is made for Students who can attend only three fixed days per week.  
A Prospectus with full details may be had at the Office of the College. For General Chemistry by Prof. Williamson, see For Perpetual Admission, 4s.; Whole Term, 6s.; Half Term, 3s. Of Practical Chemistry during Summer Term—Fees, 4s. and 2s. See Prospectus of Faculty of Arts and Laws.

CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.  
September, 1866.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.**—The PROFESSOR of FRENCH has TWO VACANCIES in his house for STUDENTS or PUPILS in the Junior School, to Board and Reside. Particulars may be had on application to Prof. Ch. Cassal, 31, Hildrop-road, Camden-road, or at the Office of the College.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.**—Prof. LEONE LEVY'S LECTURES, 'On the Bank of England and other Institutions of Credit,' will commence on THURSDAY, October 11, at 7 P.M. For Prospectus apply to J. W. CUNNINGHAM, Esq., R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

**KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.**—The Council GIVE NOTICE that the Office of HEAD MASTER of the SCHOOL will be VACANT at Christmas next, and that they will receive Applications for the Appointment not later than Wednesday, October 17.  
For information, apply to J. W. CUNNINGHAM, Secretary.

**LECTURES on MINERALOGY and GEOLOGY at KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.** are given on WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY MORNINGS from Nine to Ten, by Professor TENNANT, F.R.S. Those on Mineralogy begin Friday, Oct. 5, and terminate at Christmas. Fee, 2s. 2s. Those on Geology commence in January and continue till June. A shorter course of Lectures on Mineralogy and Geology is delivered on Wednesday Evenings from Eight till Nine. These begin on Oct. 19 and terminate at Easter. Fee, 1s. 11s. 6d. Mr. Tennant also accompanies his Students to the Public Museums, and to places of Geological interest in the country.  
R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

**ROYAL SCHOOL of NAVAL ARCHITECTURE and MARINE ENGINEERING, SOUTH KENSINGTON.**—This School will RE-OPEN on the 1st of November next.  
Application for information as to Admission, &c., should be made to the Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum, W.  
By order of the Council.

**UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH.**  
The SESSION will commence on THURSDAY, Nov. 1, 1866. Full details as to Classes, Examinations, Degrees, &c., in the Faculties of Arts, Divinity, Law, and Medicine, together with a List of the General Council, will be found in the 'EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CALENDAR, 1866-67,' published by Messrs. Macdonald & Stewart, South Bridge, Edinburgh. Price 2s. 6d.; per post, 2s. 9d.  
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ALEX. SMITH, Sec. to the University.

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**ROYAL SCHOOL of MINES, Jermyn-street.**  
—Dr. FRANKLAND, F.R.S., will commence a Course of FORTY LECTURES on INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, on MONDAY NEXT, October 8, at 10 o'clock, to be continued on each succeeding Wednesday, Friday, and Monday, at the same hour. These Lectures will be delivered at the Royal College of Chemistry, Oxford-street. Fee for the Course, 4s.  
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The INAUGURAL LECTURE will be delivered by ADOLPHE HEIMANN, Ph.D., on WEDNESDAY, October 10, at 3 o'clock. Admission free to Ladies and Gentlemen on presenting their visiting cards.  
The Classes will BEGIN on THURSDAY, October 11th. The SCHOOL RE-OPENED on September 27th.  
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Down in then desolate Lancashire, Peter Walkden, with no Court-life to tell, took spontaneously to the work which Saint-Simon followed, and chronicled the small beer of his Nonconformist and farming life in the North. The period was one when England was unquiet, and rebellion was scotched, not killed,—nay, actively afoot, with nothing less in view than overturning the throne, dislodging Brunswick, extinguishing the Church, and setting up the Stuart, Jacobitism and Popery, with a promise of toleration, to be observed or not as expe-

diency suggested. Of all this turmoil, the recent struggles, the present intrigues, the future prospects, Peter Walkden takes no more notice than if there were neither existence nor prospect of them. Falling thrones are nothing to him when his hay is going to ruin under falling rain; he talks more of his barns than the Church; and always less of anything else than of himself. A Nonconformist minister going into an alehouse to warm himself (on cold Sunday mornings) with a pint of ale and a pipe before he goes into chapel, and who sometimes—after entering the chapel, and finding no sufficient congregation collected,—returns to the alehouse, his pint and his pipe, till the faithful assemble in greater numbers,—is still a picture of the times in a distant locality, worth the contemplating now, and not unworthy the describing then. In the act itself offence was neither given nor taken. Why should not the "minister," who has ridden far in the cold and wet, have the comfort of his pint and his pipe before he came to expound to his people the law and the prophets? They could wait half an hour; they were not particular; the Rev. Peter would be all the warmer and stronger for his work; a touch of ginger or a cast of spice in his ale, they thought, would do Peter no harm; a flash of spirit in his drink was no stumbling-block to the faithful. Much good might it do him! Worthy creatures! they had nothing to object to a man who, on "May 25, Lord's Day, at noon went to Walmesley, and got refreshed at the expense of William Richmond, and catechized as to who is the Redeemer of God's elect."

The Rev. Peter Walkden's residence was a modest house, for which he paid less than 6*d.* a week; four-and-twenty shillings a year, of fifty-two weeks to the year, on a lease of eleven years! In that modest house he had a wife, of whom he always speaks as "my love." And there was drunk, not merely ale, cold or spiced, but good claret wine, at 5*s.* 8*d.* the gallon. For 4*s.* and his clothes, he binds one of his sons to a "pled weaver." When we find him mixing ale and milk in one draught, we are concerned for his digestion, but the minister goes on his way rejoicing. Sometimes he is wayfaring to Preston, but he calls it "proud Preston," whereupon Mr. Dobson, jealous of the honour of his northern town, informs us, in a note, that it was so called, not because it is "proud" in the offensive sense, but on account of "its proud, i.e. genteel, inhabitants." The gentility of the minister's own family was partly maintained by giving his children a respectable education; but he calls his daughter's governess, Ann Parkinson, the "school dame," and what we should call "terms," or "fees," he roundly calls "wages." "She told us that our daughter's quarters were up on Tuesday last, and that the wages due to her should go towards paying for the quarter of coals she has had of me, and that she would have me bring half a quarter more, at my leisure." Thus, Mr. Walkden dealt in coals, as well as expounded the Gospel. There was a good deal of paying in kind went on, and a reciprocity of labour. "John Wilkinson sent his daughters, Jane and Jennet, who helped us all day, for help again." And there was much lending, and paying, and settling of little accounts, over pipes and penny pots of ale. The latter was not "small drink," or why, after due allowance of the tippie, did the Rev. Mr. Walkden leave his gloves at the Cross Keys, after the butcher treated him, and forget the hough of beef which he had taken in with him to the Flying Horse? As a sample of the dealing which took place, we may notice the entry wherein it is said: "Came to James

Corner's shop, and paid for welting and soleing my shoes, 1*s.* 6*d.*; but he having bought veal of me, as much as came to 6*d.*, I having since bought mutton of him that came to 5*d.*, he owed me a penny on the flesh account, which is referred to a further reckoning." Stupendous balance!

It is to be remarked that Nonconformists observed the public church feasts and thanksgivings. We fancy they could not help themselves; but neither did they much trouble themselves, one way or the other. Thus, on a "Guy-Faux Day," Mr. Walkden rode over to Newton chapel—and "went into Edward Parkinson's, and got a pint of ale, and warmed me; then went to chapel, and prayed. . . then dismissed the people; and Mrs. Salisbury came to me, and gave me 2*s.* 6*d.*, and desired my prayers; and Jane Parson came to me, and told me how bad health she had had. . . and desired me to pray for her, that it might be sanctified to the highest ends. I promised both to pray for 'em, and I parted. . . and I got a pint of ale and a toast, and was for coming home, but a mighty rain began to fall, with thunder, which caused me to call for another pint. . . I paid the landlady 6*d.* for meat, drink, and hay; the smith 9*d.* for shoeing and removing (the shoes of) my mare."

We are a little taken aback by one entry which tells us that "Old Mr. Townley, vicar of Slaidburn, was dead, on Monday last," and that "the parish was glad of his death, in hopes that the tithes would now fall into new hands." We are surprised, because Mr. Townley made in his will "an earnest request to the curates of Burnley for ever, that they will, by the grace of God, make their lives suitable to their doctrine," and many pious exhortations and solemn counsels are given by a man who appears to have entirely neglected his own benefice. The looser parishioners did not entirely neglect the church ordinances; for Mr. Townley found, on one sacrament day, that the sacrilegious villains had tapped the wine, and, having drunk it all, he was fain to beg a couple of gallons of claret of the squire! Indeed, it may be said that if most of these northern folk were less wicked than the above graceless rogues, everybody was quite as thirsty. "I, being not very well, sat and got 2 pints of ale," writes the minister, who, in his estimate of that liquor, was sanctioned by Bishop Still, the alleged author of its praises.

There are a few entries which bring the Church and Nonconformists together in a curious way. For example:—

"Dec. 17.—Spent the day wholly at home, and most in offering to wianow oats for the kilns, and son John went to Eccleshill coalpit for 2 loads of coals for Henry Richmond's. The wind was dull, that I dressed not the oats, but got the chaff out of the most of 'em; in the evening, John got well from the coalpit. . . P.S.—This afternoon, William Dilworth, clerk of Chipping, came to me, and wanted me to give account what children I have baptized these 3 years past. I gave him account of 2 of Ralph Ellison's, 2 of James Proctor's, 2 of Henry Graves's, one of Richard Parkinson's, and one of mine own, viz., daughter Catherine. I paid him for Katherine's baptism, viz., 6*d.*, and he went his way."

The Toleration Act of William the Third enabled Dissenting ministers, among other rights secured to them, to baptize the children of their people. Down to the present time, however, there are clergymen who refuse to consider baptism by Dissenting ministers valid; and yet lay baptism is not, under certain circumstances, illegal. Mr. Walkden's payment was probably a fee for copying his own register into that of the parish, the usual course at the



present time. On April 20, 1730, he met with a strange visitor:—

"April 20.—In the evening came old Mr. Holt, an old itinerant mendicant preacher in the Church of England, and lodged with us, he being an old neighbour to me when at my father's house."

Although Mr. Walkden speaks of "Thursday next being what is commonly called Christmas Day," the dissenters then, as now, making no especial account of it, he had a service in his chapel, but no reference to the season is made in his record of the service. It would seem as if the dissenters of that time were obliged to follow certain observances of Church customs; to open their chapels, for instance, on festival days, when the church was open. Lancashire clergymen do not appear to have made any difficulties touching the burial of dissenters. The Mr. Weatherhead named in the following extract was the minister of the parish:—

"So, being Robert Symptom's burial to-day, I got ready at 10 a clock. I got my mare, and went to John Parker's, o' th' Lees . . . and I set an hour. I got my mare, and went direct to the burying-house, and got in just before the servitors' set, and I dined with them. So the corpse was carried forth, and they set forward with 'em [it] towards Slatburn, and I set and smoked a pipe. Then got my mare, and followed 'em, and overtook 'em at the Wood end, and attended 'em to Slatburn, and was in the church and at the grave till Mr. Weatherhead read over the office of burial. So I got my mare, and came with John Jackson and one Bee, of Hodderside, to the Knowle stones. Then we parted, they going homewards, and I going to Gregill . . . and set while supper was ready. Then supped, and in some time after I read Scriptures, and we sung part of a psalm, and I prayed in the family."

There was a good deal of feasting in, and some out of, the house on these solemn occasions. "Ann Seed, o' th' Little Town, came with some remains of the burying provisions, of which my love gave us each a taste." We find, too, that this Nonconformist wrote his discourses: "Finished the composition of Alice Martin's funeral sermon." After it was preached, (in "a gown," too, it would seem,) he says ruefully: "Set awhile with Alice Martin's relatives, and expected they would have paid me for the sermon, but I got nothing." Small gratuities were not declined by him: "At the Chapel Chamber, William Fell came to me and thanked me for what I had done for him in his last sickness, and gave me a shilling to buy me what I pleased with." Although evidently a sincerely pious man, honest, hard-working farmer and chapman, doing the best for his many children (who after their school time, were glad to be servants and labourers), fulfilling his ministerial duties regularly, and digging, delving, ploughing, harrowing, ditching, on his little farm, ending the day with prayer, praise and thanksgiving at home, the Rev. Peter Walkden had common human failings; he could grow angry and indulge in the consequences:—

"March 20.—I got a guinea changed at cousin Throop's, and spent 6d., so came home, and in the way was bawled at by Thomas Rhodes for saying that he had said that I could never pay my rent. I said I never said so, and was angry at him, and smote him with my stick 2 or 3 times about his hat. So we talked on till at last I left him, and called at his wife to see what she had said. She said Bartholomew Eccles told her that I had said so of Thomas. But I said he had never been in my mouth nor mind, till he spoke to me, of all the time that I was at Throop's."

What came of it is not recorded. Most events were wound up at the alehouse; even membership with the little community was celebrated over a gill:—

"Ellen Dobson signified to me her desire to sit

down with us at the Lord's table [on the following Sunday], having formerly set down at Forton, with Mr. Aray. I accepted her, and she and I and my love went into James Walmsley's, and had each a pennyworth of ale."

These are strange illustrations of old Northern life. Occasionally the routine was broken in upon by the welcome arrival of a newspaper. The interested reader thinks it worth while to record that the Czar is really dead, or Copenhagen in distress, or the old Pope has gone to his account. The only home news which he chronicles is the trial of the infamous Col. Charteris, his sentence "to be hanged." "He is said to be worth 200,000*l.*; that his estates, goods and chattels in London, Lancashire, and Buckinghamshire, were all seized or forfeited to the Crown." But this arch-monster was pardoned. It has often been said that his blood and his name had happily perished away and out of thought; but this is not the case. When this monster of uncleanness was pardoned, he recovered his estates. He had one only child, a daughter, Janet Charteris, whose hand, with the heaviest of tochers in it, was asked for, and won by, James, the fourth Earl of Wemyss. The son of James and Janet (the fifth Earl), inheriting the vast estates of his infamous grandfather, stooped to take his name. Estates and name have lineally descended to the present Earl Wemyss; and his son, the well-known Lord Elcho, is heir to the double inheritance and responsibilities.

But let us return to the Rev. Peter Walkden's chroniclings.

Of customs and spoken phrases, there are many curious samples. A man's verbal will, properly witnessed, was as good as all the written and misleading, unpunctuated verbiage of the lawyers. Indeed, nuncupative wills were legal till 1837. Then we find that if the parson Trullibers did not care to read the funeral service, the office was performed by the clerk, as well as he could get through it. Now and then a "wandering straggle-brained clergyman" would look in on the Nonconformist and "get some refreshment"; but occasionally, too, a "minister" turns up, whose backslidings are more serious than those of the clergyman, who may have forgot what the wise king said,—that he who goeth bond for another shall smart for it. Then Mr. Walkden buys beef by the foot, and describes a cross fellow as "humorous." He tells us that he set his son John to "lead hassocks off Longridge," which means to carry thence the rushes so called, of which what church people call hassocks were originally, and are often still, made. On one day he makes joyous record of being "clear of all the scots," which is no offence to his cousins over the Border, but an honest self-gratulation at having no more debt on hand. "Scot" is Anglo-Saxon for payment due, and, as the intelligent editor remarks, a "scot-and-lot voter" is one who "pays his share of taxes and bears his lot, or part, of public offices." And this mention of taxes reminds us that when the window duty was in force (that was from 1689 to 1851) there was an official whose duty consisted in going over a house to count the windows, and charge for them accordingly, and sometimes more than accordingly. Northern people called him "the window-peeper" contemptuously. "We, having ten windows," says Mr. Walkden, "must make one up, or pay 6*s.* a year, "that is 25 per cent. on his annual rent.—When the minister "sets out his great mare to plow," it implies that the mare is let for hire; and when he and "my love" get home after paying certain debts (those *scots* would come back again) and sit down to "the tailor's supper," we are to understand that there was little on the table

and nothing to come after it. Again, we find him and his son John "lashing wheat" a whole day through, that is, "beating it against an upright flag and shaking the loose grain previous to thrashing"; the remnants left on the floor, after thrashing, were called the "brots." We can very well understand the minister when he says that on Saturday evening he "supped and barbed," that is, he shaved after supper, to save time on Sunday morning; but when he says that "Elizabeth came into our house and borrowed our *tempe*," we cannot understand what John Eccles's wife took away with her, unless it was a sieve [*temese*]. Brother Henry Woodward, on the other hand, is praised for being "very officious," a word which is now only used in a disparaging sense, and has fallen away from its proper signification. We are not sure that our stable-folk have improved on the old wontack, weam, or wombuck, by calling it the "belly-band"; to be sure, a refined groom would call it "girth." The last is a Saxon word too, and of these old words we sometimes change one for another; "house-fellow" of the old day was the companion of the house, or hus-band,—wife, as we should now say. The old words were generally significant, thus *alegar* and *vinegar* were two acid productions from sour ale and sour wine. Moreover, there was a difference between an ale-house and a host-house, though the master in each case was "mine host." In the first, good drink, and nothing more, was sold; but the host-house took in lodgers; it was the hostellerie or hotel, in fact, where there is bed as well as board. To "right side" such, or any other house, was to put it in order, and to "side" your affairs would imply to settle them pleasantly. For "settle," Yorkshire now says "fettle"; there and in Lancashire to be "throng," is simply to be exceedingly busy. Even there, however, it is only rarely that we should hear that "Thomas Morton iled our calf," that is, depreciated its merits when he was about to be a purchaser.

A difference in form of expression between *now* and *then* is observable in the entry that "Thomas Fell came to me and paid me his half year's salary," which really meant Fell's quota towards Mr. Walkden's stipend. More explicit is the form of acquittance, "clear of all demands from the beginning of the world to this day." When we find the diarist speaking of things done "to year" (for *this year*), however old-fashioned it may seem, it is a form which we all use in the words expressing things done or said by us "to-day"—for *this day*. By the way, there was one period in the year that had a singular immunity; wherefore, it is not easy to say: "I wanted Thomas Parkinson," says the diarist, "to go with me to Astley House, and secure me my rent, from Henry and Mary Richmond, one way or other. He said he couldn't tell what to say to me, for he durst not seize the goods for rent of a cottage, afore May Day." The intelligent editor fails to enlighten us on this point; nevertheless, he has rendered good service in putting before the world this simple record of a simple chronicler in bygone days.

*The Female Casual and her Lodging.* By J. H. Stallard, M.B. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

THE great excitement occasioned by the unexpected revelations of a writer whom we may designate as the original male Amateur Casual has stirred up the managers of London newspapers to repeat or imitate the experiment in a variety of ways; and it is not surprising that an attempt should have been made to ascertain the state of female casual wards in the metropolitan workhouses. This investigation seems

to have been judiciously managed, and it has elicited sufficient information to induce a medical gentleman of standing to indorse the record with his name, and to make it the text of various suggestions for the improvement of a system which, at present, is perhaps as bad as it can be, and very much worse than could have been imagined. There was considerable difficulty in finding a proper person to undertake the distasteful mission. In the case even of the male casual wards this must have been a matter of some delicacy; but among the numerous contributors to our magazines and newspapers it was, perhaps, not very difficult to find a man of education and literary experience who had sufficient tact to make his way through the gates of the workhouse, and sufficient resolution to endure the horrors that he found within. In the case of the female wards the difficulty was much more serious. It was probably an absolute impossibility to find a gently nurtured lady who would venture to trust herself in so questionable a situation; and even if any such person had volunteered to undertake the responsibility, there can be little doubt that she would have been detected by the officials, and expelled ignominiously from the charming "lady's bower" which it is the pride of the nineteenth century to have invented. A satisfactory emissary, however, was at last found in the person of a female of small means, who was willing, from motives of gratitude, to assist in what she considered a good work, and whose known respectability was thought a sufficient guarantee for the accuracy of her statements. From the verbal narrative of this woman the story of the "Female Casual" has been compiled; and we are told that there is every reason to believe that the picture is practically correct.

One of the most striking features of the female casual wards appears to be that they contain an almost incredible number of unbidden guests: in other words, they swarm with minute animal life to an extent which precludes the possibility of sleep until daylight. No doubt these creatures are brought thither in ample numbers by the casuals; but that is not a sufficient explanation of all that we read. We are told that at one establishment they are seen issuing from crevices in the walls one after another, just like wasps coming singly but in a continuous string out of the neat little hole in the side of the nest. The "Female Casual" at this particular workhouse put her allowance of bread upon the bed, and very soon afterwards she saw it covered with black vermin. She found it impossible to lie in her bed, for the moment she pulled the rug over her the persecution was intolerable, and she was fain to sit for hours together on the side of a kind of wooden trough, which did duty as a bedstead. On one occasion she was seized with a severe choleraic attack which utterly prostrated her, and she was forced to seek for shelter beneath the dreaded coverlet. She describes her feelings thus: "I got very cold, and, vomiting incessantly, I was forced to cover myself with the rug to preserve my life, and from that moment my torture was beyond the power of any tongue to tell. It was impossible to see anything; but I felt stung and irritated until I tore my flesh till it bled in every part of my body."

It is impossible in these columns to detail all the horrors of the nights passed in four public institutions provided for the relief of the poor in gay and wealthy London. Even in the book itself the narrative is somewhat softened down, the bad language of the vagrants, especially, having been subjected to a considerate censorship. Enough, however, is told to show that these places are the abodes

of unheard of wretchedness and filth, and that, whatever may be the real obstacles to keeping such resorts in anything like decent order and cleanliness, the authorities, in most cases, seem to do nothing, and have therefore no right to take refuge from public censure in the difficulty of their situation.

We have abstained from mentioning the names of the particular workhouses visited by the "Female Casual," for we feel that it would be unjust to assail the authorities of any particular locality on the testimony of an anonymous witness. It is clear, too, that the woman who was unhappy enough to go through this experience was guilty of numerous deviations from truth, having, in each instance, deliberately made use of false pretences to obtain admission. This is no more, it may be argued, than the detective police do every day in their efforts to bring criminals to justice; but the cases differ widely in this particular, that the policeman ultimately appears in the witness-box and gives his evidence in solemn form, while the "Female Casual" is ever hidden from view, and her statements have not received the sanction of an oath. Still, however, we are inclined to believe her story. A trial at law would often be left undecided if it were necessary that every witness should be immaculate. The jury have to balance the evidence, and to rely a good deal on the manner in which it is given; and in numerous cases where the testimony has been doubtful and confused, the subsequent confession of the criminal has confirmed the accuracy of the verdict. We believe that the "Female Casual" has done her best to tell a true story,—first, because her manner is natural and unassuming; and, secondly, because the picture drawn by her is similar to those which we have met with before, without bearing that close resemblance which would give it the air of a copy.

That there is something horribly wrong in the existence, under authority, of such places as our "casual wards," there can be no doubt in any reasonable mind. But it is when we try to think of a remedy that the real difficulty begins. No humane person would admit that any poor creature of either sex, however sinful or however covered with parasitic abominations, ought to be driven out to perish in the hard streets; and yet, if we take such people in, we must have them with their concomitants of bad language, vermin, and filth. There is no excuse, of course, for those guardians who allow voracious insects to swarm and propagate in their very walls; but even with the greatest care it would seem that a casual ward, as now constituted, must be a dreadful place, from the very nature of the majority of the inmates. Dr. Stallard proposes as a remedy that the Government should take charge of determined vagrants, and that casual wards should be abolished. The suggestion is, perhaps, rather startling, but with the facts before us we cannot see that it is unreasonable. Before there was a casual ward at Paddington Workhouse there were no vagrants there. And why? Because instead of passing one night in purgatory and then going forth to idle about as usual, all who came there were obliged to stay until the board of guardians met. This was distasteful to professional vagrants, who made idling and begging a practice; and those only who were in real and unavoidable distress applied for relief. Supposing Dr. Stallard's plan to be carried out, the regular vagrant might in many instances be reclaimed and turned into a useful labourer, while our roads and fields would be freed from a frightful incubus, and the workhouses, relieved from the miserable duty of promoting vagrancy, might open their doors more liberally to the deserving

poor. We cannot, at first sight, judge whether there are any objections which would counter-balance the apparent advantages of this scheme; but we feel assured that it is the duty of an enlightened Government, with or without precedent, to step in wherever it sees an obvious evil; and there is surely a *dignus vindice nodus* when an almost unparalleled barbarism exists among us, side by side with imperial luxury, and in the midst of noble charities whose aggregate annual income rivals the budget of a nation.

*Confederation considered in Relation to the Interests of the Empire.* By the Hon. Joseph Howe. (Stanford.)

*Newfoundland v. Confederation. The Petition of the Merchants, Traders, Fishermen, and other Inhabitants of Newfoundland.*

*Nova Scotia v. Confederation. Petitions from Inhabitants of Nova Scotia.*

SINCE Messrs. Bolton and Webber, of the Royal Artillery, published their able treatise on the British-American question, English politicians have seen reason to modify their first opinions with respect to the scheme for a federal union of Canada and the maritime provinces. Anyhow, it is clear that, far from being an object of unanimous desire with the persons principally concerned, Confederation is regarded with suspicion and aversion by a considerable proportion of the more intelligent and loyal colonists. The proposal has occasioned party contest, which has been carried on by either side with a vehemence and acrimony unusual even in the political feuds of small societies; and the struggle for confederal fusion on the one hand, and separate existence on the other, has now reached a point when the appearance of Mr. Howe's trenchant pamphlet will not appear premature either to his friends or his foes. Notwithstanding the greater favour which the project appears to have recently won in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the relative strength of the belligerents has not altered much in the course of contention, and the question seems no nearer a satisfactory settlement than it did immediately after the collapse of the "Quebec Scheme." Canada, of course, is still an enthusiastic supporter of Confederation. As the power with whom the proposal originated, she would for consistency's sake exert herself for its attainment, even if it held out to her ambition no pleasant hope of individual aggrandizement; but as the colony which, according to the admissions of her admirers and the taunts of her detractors, would be the principal gainer from the contemplated change, she may be applauded for straining every nerve to establish the joint-stock company of which she would be the despotic manager, although she would bring to its possessions nothing more valuable than an indefensible frontier, a disunited population, and a wide area of unoccupied territory. Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island still hold to their original determination, and firmly refuse to sacrifice their independence for the sake of the Canadas. As a gratifying contrast to the obstinacy of these self-sufficient islands, the advocates of Confederation point triumphantly to the change which argument and reflection have brought about in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, who, after disdainfully rejecting the Quebec scheme, have at length consented to take part in a convention to be held in London, for the purpose of devising some more practicable plan of union. No doubt this is a great concession on the part of the New Brunswickers and Nova-Scotians; but its importance is likely to be exaggerated by those who fail



to rate at their true value the intelligence and moral weight of the minorities who in each of those provinces are protesting against the action of the agitators for Confederation. The voice of a minority is sometimes more authoritative than the votes of a majority; and an opposition, whose leaders can speak to such good purpose as Messrs. Bolton, Webber, and Howe, may become the victorious side at any moment in the delicate and treacherous warfare of parties. In like manner, the enthusiastic supporters of Confederation are likely to fall into error through overlooking the fact that the majorities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are not so desirous of union on any terms as to declare themselves willing to become partners in a federation which shall not comprise the other maritime States. At present they have merely consented to send representatives to a convention to be held in London, and to be composed of an equal number of delegates from all the provinces. Of course this concession is an important matter; but it is only one of several steps that must be taken before Nova Scotia and New Brunswick can be held to have committed themselves irrevocably to the cause of Confederation.

In substance Mr. Howe's pamphlet is a repetition of the arguments which Messrs. Bolton and Webber brought against the scheme for a British-American confederacy several months since. Like those joint-authors, he demonstrates the evil consequences that would ensue to the maritime States and to imperial interests, if Canada should achieve her ambition. Successively he calls attention to all the weak points of Canada's harness,—her proximity to the United States, her long line of defenceless frontier, her internal dissensions, her proneness to rebellion, her abundant disloyalty; and in setting forth these matters the practised debater and trenchant speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislature alternately exhibits a lively humour and an excited imagination. His fervour and occasional tendency to bombastic extravagance of diction will do him disservice with English readers whose judicial coolness will make them slow to see in the Quebec scheme "a measure of spoliation and appropriation, on a more gigantic scale than any that has startled Europe"; but for the most part his criticisms are just, and his language well chosen. In his remarks upon the United States, and the light in which that power would naturally regard the new nationality banded together and called into existence for the express purpose of causing her trouble, he draws attention to an aspect of the question which should not be overlooked. Nor is he less successful in another way when he laughs at the awkward position of the twelve delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick who have already arrived in London to confer with delegates from all the other provinces, at a convention, from which Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island have decided to absent themselves. "Two 'bodies of delegates' as the papers inform us," observes the pamphleteer with a malicious smile, "came over here from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a month ago. They were twelve in number, and it is presumed that they have been puzzled to know what to do with themselves, and Lord Carnarvon quite as much puzzled to know what to do with them, seeing that Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have refused to take part in the conference; and that the Canadians, busy with sectional, national and religious disputes, as usual, have as yet had nobody to spare, and do not, it is said, propose to send over their contingent till October. If all the colonies were to be represented by equal

numbers, there would be just thirty-six of those delegates here, costing a pretty round sum of money, and doing what might be more becomingly done at home." When the delegates of the consenting States shall have met, Mr. Howe is of opinion that Lord Carnarvon ought to dismiss them in some such words as these:—"Gentlemen, it is unfair for you to come here and attempt to mix the Government and Parliament of England up in your disputes. You possess ample powers to mature a scheme of government. Go home, and hold your conference in some public hall, where the people to be affected by your decision can hear your debates and be influenced by your arguments. If you can agree upon a plan of union, publish it for three months, and dissolve your legislatures. If the people accept it, the Parliament of England, unless controlled by imperial policy and interests, will probably ratify their decision; but, as the people may not, it would be unfair to compromise me by getting me to pledge myself to a measure which, until it is ratified by the suffrages of those it is to affect, must obviously be too crude and immature to require serious attention."

That the gentlemen who have already arrived in London from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have no intention of returning to their homes until they have done their best to create a confederation of some sort, we infer from a letter which Mr. Charles Tupper, the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, has recently addressed from his lodgings at the Alexandra Hotel to a daily journal. "The co-operation of the islands of Newfoundland and Prince Edward," says Mr. Tupper, "though desirable, is by no means so essential as to render the union of Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—possessing an area of 400,000 square miles, and a population of nearly four millions—under a united government 'a lame and impotent conclusion.'" Most persons will differ from Mr. Tupper on this point. In our judgment a confederation of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, without the other two maritime States, would be a most unsatisfactory and ridiculous termination to a movement which has led a very large number, if not a majority, of English politicians to believe that the proposal for a British-American confederacy is a project which must be shelved until the imperial reasons and colonial desire for its adoption shall have acquired greater strength. Moreover a confederation of those powers would most likely fail to satisfy more than one of three. Canada, no doubt, would rather have two federal allies than none; but though majorities in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have declared in favour of a confederation similar in outline to the Quebec scheme, it does not follow that those States contain even so much as an influential minority in favour of a union which should not comprise Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island. In a federation of the five States—or six States, if Canada be reckoned as two—the smaller provinces could by combination resist the encroachments and check the ambition of the Canadian statesmen; but in a union composed of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the two inferior States would be completely at the mercy of their powerful companion. Unless the delegates, whose presence in London is an affair for pleasantry with Mr. Howe, have grounds for thinking with Mr. Tupper that a confederation limited to three powers would be acceptable to their constituents, they may as well spare themselves the labour of attending a convention which is not likely to have any practical result.

*Catholic Orthodoxy and Anglo-Catholicism: a Word about Intercommunion between the English and the Orthodox Churches.* By I. J. Overbeck, D.D. (Trübner & Co.)

THE author of this book is a scholar and a foreigner, who writes German better than English, though his English is good and strong, stirring and direct. He is evidently an earnest man, who has distinct views of religion, of doctrine, and of the Catholic Church. His spirit is not bad, nor is his mind cast in a narrow mould. He speaks out fearlessly what he thinks, sketches religious parties with a bold hand, and knows what he discourses about. Those who begin his book will scarcely lay it aside, for it is full of vigorous writing, strong opinions, and great liveliness. The author deserves a patient hearing, and will receive it, we trust, from the sects he speaks of, to whom he preaches a certain amount of wholesome truth. Belonging to the Orthodox Church, as he terms the Eastern, and believing it to be the only true Catholic Church, his object is to bring about a reunion of the other Christian churches, chiefly of the English Church, with the so-called orthodox one.

We do not accept his belief that the Eastern is the only true catholic orthodox church; nor can we wish for the reunion of the Anglican Church with it. His tilts against Protestantism, founded as it is on the right of private judgment, are harmless; and his notions of heresy may be satisfactory to himself, without injuring such as he deems heretical. Indeed he lives in an ideal atmosphere to a large extent, dreaming about a unity which no Church exhibits except it be thickly encrusted with ignorance, and which it is undesirable that any Church aiming at catholicity should try to present. The varieties of the human mind must be allowed reasonable scope within any organized society claiming to be free and intelligent at the same time. While, therefore, Dr. Overbeck surveys from his orthodox watch-tower the Churches which have fallen away from the truth more or less as he supposes, and pities their disorganized state or doctrinal errors, the pure society to which he belongs is as far from perfection as some of the ecclesiastical organizations which he freely criticizes. It will be a long time ere any Protestant Church is incorporated with it. The Roman Catholic Church itself will continue to stand aloof. An infallible community has no desire to approach any other.

The following is a sketch of the Evangelical party in the Established Church:—

"The Evangelicals scarcely will yield by themselves to any plan of orthodox intercommunion. Their inveterate self-conceit can only be broken, as it were, by a wonder. They display great activity, have a fervent love for the Bible, and a fervent hatred of all that contradicts their opinions. They do not love the Bible, but *their* Bible. After having infused into the Bible their misconceptions, they like this *their subjective* Bible, cherishing in the Bible nothing but their own conceited *self*, fondling their Bibleized Calvin. They read the Bible, are fond of the Bible, as being *their home-made* book, not as the God-sent church-book. I call this an egotistical worship; I call this *Bibliolatry*. They love Christ, and Dr. Pusey forgives them a great many errors on account of their love of Christ. But 'if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not; for there shall arise false Christs.' I openly confess that I dislike a Calvinistic Christ, and that I do not 'go forth into the desert to see him.' I only like *the true, historical Christ of the Church*, not the heretical phantom of Christ, preaching Calvin's doctrines—and awful doctrines they are—subverting the very foundation of all Catholic truth, haunting poor mankind and hunting them into despair for three



centuries past. Such a Christ was not crucified for us; he cannot atone us, because he sprang from the brains of Calvin, but did not descend from heaven. 'But they intend, at least, to love the real Christ, and their good intention will save them.' I hope so myself; however, the idolater also intends to worship the real God, not the brass or ivory idol, but the hidden God, represented by these images, and still nobody doubts his idolatry. I will not carry this momentous question any further, but content myself with hinting how deeply Protestantism has uprooted the Christian truth."

Here is a picture of the English Church:—

"The English Church separated from Rome. We have no reason to blame her for that, since Rome itself was schismatically separated from the East. If England's schism had proved a *reprobation of true Catholic principles*, it would have been a blessing to herself and to all Western Catholic Christendom. The East would have hastened to embrace her sister church, and to support the great work of occidental reunion. Alas! the Anglican Church, after having shaken off Rome's fetters, fell in with the Reformers, and was carried off, far away from Catholic ground, by the fluctuations of private judgment. It is true there is a strong Catholic feature in the English character, which even three centuries of Protestant influence could not efface, and which made of Anglicanism a strange compound of Protestantism and Catholicism. This feature is the *innate traditional and conservative disposition of the English mind* sticking to history as the living foundation of nations and of all their vital institutions. The German mind is inclined to soar in ideal spheres far above the real life here below. Philosophical conceptions, subjective fancies are to replace the matter-of-fact reality. Luther was the chief incarnation and representative of this German mind, and the father of Protestantism. Had Luther kept the historical ground of the Catholic Church, had he dived into the vast depths of dogmas divinely taught and heartily to be embraced, he might have become a father in the Church, a father mightier than many a faithful philosopher and profound divine in bygone ages, a popular father of the Catholic people at large. But Luther, emancipating the *subject* from the *objective* ground and condition of man rooted in history, became the curse and scourge of his race. The English had enough German blood in their veins to follow with curiosity the progress of the Reformation, but not enough to break thoroughly with the past, to strip themselves of every thing substantial. The English people never introduced reformation; it was imposed upon them and, so to say, '*octroyée*,' by unprincipled tyrants supported by a handful of innovators. But in spite of tyranny and persecution, the English would not part with their Church, and only when something like a church, some delusive phantom, was presented to their eyes, they were duped into what they considered their ancient church, cleansed from Popish rubbish. This is the real history of the English Reformation; and the inconsistency of Anglicanism is but its glory and hope in the eyes of all true Catholics. It is gratifying to muse on the English Church, and to think that this is the only Protestant body which tenaciously clings to the idea of the Catholic Church. All Protestant sects, indeed, claim for themselves Catholicity; but none, except the Anglicans, think, at least to a certain extent, to be saved by the instrumentality of their Church. Hence the more intense Catholic feeling of the Anglicans; hence their yearning towards reunion with the rest of Catholic Christendom."

Dr. Overbeck writes, as our readers will see, with a dashing force and dogmatic air, dealing in wholesale statements which may be questioned or denied. As a guide he is neither safe nor cautious. While exercising the right of private judgment very freely, he ought not to decry it as the privilege of a Church. He is evidently incapable of calm philosophizing or profound thought in relation to questions that concern a divine revelation and the way in which it should be interpreted. His censures of

churches and men are scattered abroad with liberal hand; and one would suppose that he belonged to an infallible church were it not that he finds great fault with Roman Catholicism. It cannot be said with truth that he is uncharitable; but he is certainly self-sufficient in his own opinion. He exhibits boldness rather than wisdom—rashness rather than breadth of view or accuracy. His book is alike amusing and instructive. The lusty German, safe for eternity in the only Catholic Church, tells us what he thinks about other religionists, and his thoughts may pass for what they are worth. He sees clearly, and his sketches have an element of truth; but they do not inspire confidence nor claim hearty assent. Above all, they will not win any to the Church of the writer, who must speak more wisely to Englishmen before the charms of the Eastern Church attract our regards, or private judgment ceases to be thought a right thing in spiritual matters.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*For Ever and Ever: a Drama of Life.* By Florence Marryat. 3 vols. (Bentley.)

'For Ever and Ever' is a novel that will be known in a far wider circle and will number many more readers than any of Miss Marryat's former works. She has made a long step in advance since her last production, published but a short time ago. The characters described are full of life and action, and are not mere pasteboard creations in which it is difficult to be interested; they act and speak like human beings. Were this book from a man's pen, we might give it more unqualified praise than we feel justified in now doing. Were it, in such case, less full of the promise of talent, we still might be lenient in criticism; but there is a vein of coarseness meandering through some of the descriptions which must be protested against. Miss Marryat at times renders character so well, and describes scenes so feelingly, that we are shocked when she wastes her powers on vulgarity. We have a right to expect nothing but what is wholesome and pure from the pen of a lady who has originated so charming a character as Henrietta Stuart. We acknowledge Miss Marryat's power. Her style is spirited though simple; and the moral reflections interspersed afford conclusive evidence that she possesses womanly feelings which prompt her to censure the conduct she describes. Her book is not a healthy one, yet it arouses interest. Few who begin it will lay it down unfinished; it is a feverishly exciting book, that will not be particularly beneficial to its readers.

The story is principally composed of the adventures of a young man who, not having a pleasant home, and having a talent for Art, comes to London for its perfecting. There is a short prologue in which the old, but always touching, story of the young girl is told,—who, accustomed to every comfort and luxury in her home, leaves it for the miserably unhomelike dwelling of the barracks, with a husband who, after the first few months, wearies of her society, and prefers to spend his morning hours in flirtations, and his evenings in smoking and in gambling orgies. The deserted wife is left to nurse her sickly child, in scarlet fever, under which the mother sinks, and the boy recovers, to be met, fifteen years after, as the hero of this novel. Mrs. Wardlaw, having no earthly happiness but what is centered in her child, has made it her constant prayer that, whether for good or evil, his life may be spared. Though warned by a benevolent friend that such a prayer, without reserve, may bring a curse instead of a blessing, the mother's cry is still the same. The prayer is heard, but the boy

lives only to wish through many a bitter hour that life and all its terrible lessons had been denied him. Those readers who object to meet any but the highest members of society must not send for 'For Ever and Ever.' They will find themselves in many of the paths of Bohemia. At one time we are behind the scenes of a theatre, and often in very questionable company. The artist with whom the hero, John Wardlaw, comes to study is not one of those favoured mortals who rejoice in luxurious surroundings while at their easels. Tom Cornicott has to dispense with antique carving or Venetian glass in his studio; but his house is ornamented with eleven children and a wife who looks like an untidy charwoman. They all live together in the kitchen, and keep up their ideas of cheerfulness on underdone yellow ham and weak tea. Miss Marryat accuses the artistic brotherhood of more egotistical conceit about their productions than is shown by other branches of the working ten thousand. She attributes this to the fact of their pictures growing too dear to them, having progressed day by day under their eye from a faint outline to the finishing touch. This can scarcely be the reason, we think, even if the surmise be correct, which we incline to doubt. The talent of a musician, whether it be of the vocal or instrumental order, is equally always with him; his compositions are never out of his mind, and the notes of a first-rate voice, as they daily develop, are a continual fresh source of delight to their possessor. The literary brain, too, is ever alive with new conceptions and ideas, which it treasures and never loses sight of; and if the painter's eye be always on the watch for each artistic point in the scenery it views or the face it gazes on, surely the life object of the *literati* is not allowed to elude them for an instant; each familiar friend is studied for original characteristics; every new object is made of use. Then, we may fairly object to the over-importance which Miss Marryat assigns to great beauty. Its possessor is made to trade on it in every look, action, and pose. Intellectuality is made of no value in comparison with creamy skins, flashing eyes, and flowing hair. Beauty is a great and a wonderful fascinator; but John Wardlaw, in yielding himself a slave to the *evil* influence of Rowena Bellew, is overcome too soon by the power of her external charms. The extenuating plea is, that he had been brought up in the country; that "his sight had not been glutted with loveliness, or his ear with flattery; that he had associated very little with women, and had no fear of them, or what was worse, of himself." The "devouring passion" with which John Wardlaw is possessed is dwelt upon at great length; and though we are not allowed to fancy the author intends to confound it with true love and affection, still the description of Rowena's alluring looks (not words, for she is cold and bad tempered to every one) is returned to again and again. In the delineation of a character like this, something of the kind must be said; but it is unnecessary to dwell so much upon it, as though it were the pleasantest part of the work. In describing a great city, we must make mention of its impure alleys and slums; but we turn to the accounts of wide and healthy thoroughfares with a sensation of relief. We may add, that in 'For Ever and Ever,' though the wicked do not flourish like green bays, the innocent suffer much; and, without telling the plot, we may remark that Henrietta Stuart's devoted lover need not have been made quite so insignificant. The *stammer* is *de trop*; the sacrifice on her part would have been great enough without that. There is great change of scenery in the book. When away from London,

we are shown pretty sights in the hop-gardens of Kent, and finish up with a peep at Burnah, and well-given descriptions of the country and inhabitants, particularly of the girls, who stick gay flowers coquettishly in their hair and flutter along in bright-coloured garments. We caution Miss Marryat again, as we did on a former occasion, not to let her talent be wasted on what is not healthy. She has it in her power, we are certain, to do much better than she has done even in the work before us, though that, in spite of its faults, will be popular. The story is well conceived and carried out. The sentences are flowing; and, moreover, the Queen's English has received due consideration, and is not murdered on every occasion.

*Views and Opinions.* By Matthew Browne. (Strahan.)

WE do not remember to have encountered before, in print, the name of Mr. Matthew Browne; but it is no novice who favours us with this little book of essays, brimful of good thought and feeling, noticeable for many new and true things, thoroughly expressed. Mr. Browne is essentially a nervous man, if his own description of the nervous temperament, as given in the first essay, be a correct one; and he is as sensitive to the change of mental atmosphere attending the introduction of a new thought, as to the shock consequent on violent sympathetic emotion. Any proposition essentially false, and terrible in its remote applications, seems to affect him like foul air; any violent sympathy, unjust in its application, reacts upon him so powerfully as to hurry him with electric power to the contingent truth. In a word, Mr. Browne has something of Keats's wondrous power—that of recognizing Truth by the mere sense of touch. A current of electric sensation plays vividly along every line of passages like these:—

"There is a sort of customary chivalry which has, so far as I am aware, no particular maxim to support it, though it might, and perhaps does at times, find more than one in the New Testament. The world could not carry on its affairs for a day, it is said, if it were not for 'gentlemanly constructions,' conventional allowances, and many kinds of chivalric hard winking which are better understood than described. Now, that the world *should* carry on its affairs is not the most necessary thing in this universe. The most necessary thing is that the will of God—the right—should be done; and if that involves the staying of the world's affairs, why, they must be stayed. If, then, that process of chivalrous ignoring which goes on all around us is against the will of God, let the world declare itself insolvent to-morrow, but let it have done with 'gentlemanly constructions.' I do not, however, suppose Havelock would have refused to let a soldier of drunken character fight at Lucknow; or that he would have been slow to acknowledge his bravery if he fought well. He would not have called that sanctioning the man's intemperance; though he would have been glad to see him an honourable member of the temperate band known as Havelock's Saints. That word 'sanctioning' is constantly on the lips of good people with weak heads and generally thin natures. It seems to me that it is only the weak folks,—those who are not capable of magnanimity in other kinds,—that do not understand magnanimity in *this* kind. I have indeed been struck with (may I call it) the great-hearted, fraternal recklessness of strong good people. I do not mean recklessness in submitting to intercourse on low terms, but a half-divine unconcernedness, which in reality enables them to dictate terms. When I have found the weak good people condemn Mr. Greatheart (who is pretty sure also to be Mr. Greathead) for recognizing, on any defined platform of common pursuit, the special qualities of somebody in whom he would have said (if the point had arisen) there was much to be

blamed, I have said to the weak people who complained that Mr. Greatheart was 'sanctioning' the blamable one,—'You must obey your own consciences,—at your peril, then, do it. But mind that your conscience is not sophisticated by love of giving pain, love of power, or love of safety. Let me suppose that this person, from whom Mr. Greatheart does not (to your scandal) run away, were, in the course of events, to save your life, or lose a limb in your service. Suppose your town were in a state of siege, and his was the only hand that could defend you,—would you still be so tender of "sanctioning" him, as you call it? If not, it may be that Mr. Greatheart sees deeper than you do into the things which unite and the things which sever,—how far those join men, how far these part them. Let me take an illustration from British law. There is the great common law of the land, which is antecedent to statute law, both logically and chronologically. This great common law is the charter of our lives and first liberties. If any man alleges a statutory exception, the burden of proof rests with him.' But this subject is really far too large to be dealt with at any such length as can be afforded under a general heading."

Few readers will be inclined to deny that this is very bold and veracious writing. Not the least of the praise due to the above passage and many others in the book is the statement that they deliberately and legitimately attach to themselves "sensations" which in most circles would be regarded as extremely unscientific. Rare are the essayists who can first prepare the mind with a broad and purifying proposition, and then overcome opposition by means of what we might call a shock from the nervous system of the writer, and finally attest veracity by a variety of original illustration. Most essayists deliver themselves too elaborately to arrive at anything more than a mere science of life; they work evenly enough in one direction, and never by any accident make allowance for the countless negatives in the mind of every reader of experience. But Mr. Browne, purely because he feels very acutely that life is far more than a science, shows everywhere that the purest and only true form of individual opinion is that of sensitive suggestion. He obtrudes nothing on his readers, though sometimes, as in the following passage, he slyly leaves them open to peculiar consequences:—

"One other cause, indeed, has conspicuously assisted in determining the bent of energetic young minds of fine culture in these days. For reasons which have been sufficiently discussed, our most highly-educated young men are, in very large proportion, leading celibate lives. Now, a celibate life in all its forms, from monasticism downwards or upwards, is favourable to the cultivation of autocratic tendencies. Life in the family, while it promotes stability and peace, quickens our sympathy with the pain of others, heightens our estimate of the importance of mutual responsibility, and in this way tends to freedom in political relations, when other conditions are not unfavourable (it is not necessary that they should be actively favourable). It might at first sight appear that a nation of men who had given hostages to fortune must be easier to oppress, and slower to form and to utter free opinion; but it is not so, for reasons which it would be long to discuss, though they are far from being obscure in themselves. Nor must it be forgotten, that among masses of cultivated men, leading celibate lives under the conditions of highly-civilized society, Taste would tend rapidly to become the captain and guide of existence, instead of remaining its drill-sergeant only. This is what is actually happening—what has happened before our eyes. And Taste loves authority. It is, till man shall be perfect, the creature of comfort and convenience—of a life that has glided away from irritation and anxious forth-looking of all kinds. It leans to what is courtly and statuesque; broad, smooth avenues; goodness and greatness tamed out of their splendid passion; and virtue stamped into coinage of convenience. It wants above all

things a quiet population and a strong government. There is no doubt that for the present the working power, the *force*, of the community tends to lodge itself in centres represented by wealth; and thus, under the rule of a police of public taste, wealth becomes to a large extent the arbiter of public virtue. For with plenty of money a man may do almost anything he likes, without offending a virtuous taste."

Quotation must cease now,—and further comment is unnecessary. We have here a volume which, in an extremely unpretending form, contains more absolute reflection on men and things than many pretending folios. Unlike almost all other volumes of the kind which we have read, it contains nothing positive, yet represents a mind fully acquainted with the finalities, and capable of apprehending the services, of modern positivism.

*Memoirs and Services of the late Lieut-General Sir S. B. Ellis, K.C.B., Royal Marines. From his own Memoranda. Edited by Lady Ellis. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)*

THE late gallant marine, whose body now rests in a modest grave in Charlton Churchyard, left no record of the year of his birth. We only know that in 1804, after resolutely declining to carry out his articles as clerk in a lawyer's office, he was a second Lieutenant in the Royal Marines, and that his career ended last year, as a Lieutenant-General, at Woolwich. Sir Samuel Ellis had something more than half a century of hard work, and got very little by it. He was at Trafalgar and at the Dardanelles,—names which refer to great events. Whenever it was "war time," the marine was afloat and in the very thickest of the fray. No lack of work, more than enough of responsibility, continual peril of life, inadequate pay, few honours, small thanks—that is the sum of the marine officer's life. Yet he is not discontented. In his plain, sailorly, unscholarly, but not ineffective phrase, he says—"The writer of the following memoirs is one who is himself content with the state in which it has pleased God to place him: he would not exchange his identity, were it possible, for that of any created being. Yet many and evil have been the days of his pilgrimage." He has experienced great risks of life, cares, troubles, vexations, disappointments, sickness, and affliction. He has known what it is to extend his sensibility to external attachments, to suffer for the sufferings of those who were most dear to him, and to feel the stroke of death that cut off 'his fairest hopes of sublunary bliss.' He has toiled with ill success for the means of temporal enjoyments, and has been visited by griefs which use has accommodated to his nature. And in this review of his destiny he believes that he sees the general lot of all the human race." This is not exactly the fact: life has some prizes, and even Sir Samuel was not for ever drawing blanks. Victory attended him whenever he was afloat. He did not, like Nelson, become a fool with womankind when he was ashore. Perhaps he did worse; for in his later days Sir Samuel was induced to become a railway director, and much sorrow was the consequence. He was not one of those ready-tongued, liberal-phrased "Admirals," who are the travelling wind-bags of shoddy companies—smart fellows, who talk dupes out of their cash, and make fortunes by speculations which fail. Sir Samuel lent his name, bought his shares, and came to grief, like many of his kind.

His book is more a record of the general naval history in which he took a part than one of special and personal incidents. He handles the professional part deftly enough, but when treating of other matters Sir Samuel is apt to



forget that what may be new and amusing to him is trite and stripped of all interest for those with whom such matters have been familiar from childhood. The gallant marine, moreover, is apt to moralize and to deliver himself of maxims that are, perhaps, not so original as he thought when he penned them. At the end of one naval affair of fighting and victory, he alludes to the principal actors, and adds, that "The world's a stage, life the play, and men and women merely players,"—which is not to be gainsaid, yet we fancy we have heard something like it before. Here is something newer touching Trafalgar and the famous signal:—

"This glorious battle, which so greatly influenced the affairs of Europe, and gave to England the supremacy of the seas, was one through which our ship passed with but little loss. There was scarcely any wind at the time, and we approached the enemy at not more than a knot and a half an hour. As we neared the French fleet, I was sent below with orders, and was much struck with the preparations made by the blue-jackets, the majority of whom were stripped to the waist, a handkerchief was bound tightly round their heads and over the ears, to deaden the noise of the cannon, many men being deaf for days after the action. The men were variously occupied: some were sharpening their cutlasses, others polishing the guns, as though an inspection were about to take place instead of a mortal combat, whilst three or four, as if in mere bravado, were dancing a hornpipe; but all seemed deeply anxious to come to close quarters with the enemy. Occasionally they would look out of the ports, and speculate as to the various ships of the enemy, many of which had been on former occasions engaged by our vessels. It was at this time that Nelson's famous signal, 'England expects every man to do his duty,' was hoisted at the mast-head of the Admiral's ship. These words were requested to be delivered to the men, and I was desired to inform those on the main-deck of the Admiral's signal. Upon acquainting one of the quartermasters of the order, he assembled the men with 'Avast there, lads, come and hear the Admiral's words.' When the men were mustered, I delivered, with becoming dignity, the sentence,—rather anticipating that the effect on the men would be to awe them by its grandeur. Jack, however, did not appreciate it, for there were murmurs from some, whilst others in an audible whisper muttered, 'Do our duty! Of course we'll do our duty. I've always done mine, haven't you? Let us come alongside of 'em, and we'll soon show whether we will do our duty.' Still the men cheered vociferously,—more, I believe, from love and admiration of their Admiral and leaders, than from a full appreciation of this well-known signal."

Honours were thickly showered on some of the victors, but "the brevet rank of major, conferred on one captain, was considered adequate to the claims of the royal marines whose gallant exertions so materially contributed to the important results of this gloriously-fought day." We turn from this to an incident of the war with America, in 1815. The *Majestic*, *Endymion*, and *Pomona* were looking out for the American ships *President*, *Hornet*, and *Peacock*, in American waters:—

"At dawn of day of the 15th January, 1815, the *Majestic* made signal for an enemy in sight; we bore up in chase, passing the *Majestic* and approaching the enemy, which was evidently an American frigate; the *Pomona's* signal was now made to keep more to starboard, and endeavour to prevent the enemy's bearing up, which again threw us out of the direct line of chase. At twelve the *Endymion* was fast closing the stranger, and in half an hour the latter opened her stern guns, which was returned by the bow chasers of the former. The *Pomona* still approaching, though slowly, the wind falling light, the *Endymion* maintained a running fight with the enemy with much apparent success, when finding the *Endymion* outailed her, she bore up and gave her her broadside, which was returned with great spirit and effect by the *Endymion*. The object

of this manoeuvre was to disable the latter, probably imagining she might escape during the darkness of the night. A running fight was afterwards supported by the two ships; the firing gradually ceased, and at ten wholly discontinued; the *Endymion*, from the injury she had received in her masts and sails, falling astern of us. However, the *Pomona* still gained upon the enemy, and at eleven we ranged up alongside, fired our starboard broadside, gave three cheers, and then a second and third broadside; the enemy did not return our fire, but hailed and surrendered. A boat was instantly despatched from us to take possession. I went on board with a party of marines, accompanying the First Lieutenant; on our arrival we had the satisfaction to learn that the captured vessel was the United States frigate, *President*, Commander Decatur, mounting 54 guns. She suffered considerably from the fire of the *Endymion* and *Pomona*, having between 90 and 100 men killed and wounded,—her first, fourth, and fifth lieutenants being among the former. When Commander Decatur inquired the name of the ship to whose captain he had surrendered, we informed him it was the *Pomona*. 'The *Pomona*!' he exclaimed; 'I thought it was the *Majestic*; I could have sunk you in five minutes.' The sight on the deck of the American frigate was strange indeed. Guns were there named by familiar titles; there was the *Nelson* and *Nile*, the *Trafalgar*, and others, just as if Englishmen were her crew; her lower deck and cockpit were covered with dead and wounded. Most of the killed I succeeded in getting thrown overboard, excepting the three lieutenants, who were laid in their cabins. On the *President* surrendering to the *Pomona*, fifty Englishmen (a disgrace to their country) threw themselves overboard,—seeking death to avoid a more ignominious one, which the violated laws and feelings of England would justly have inflicted."

There is a reverse side to the war-medal. Smiling *Victory* is radiant on one face of it, but the suffering victors are depicted on the other. This is how the sick and wounded were cared for in the Chinese war of a score of years or so ago:—

"I went with Dr. Lindsay on shore to the Military Hospital of the 26th Regiment. I had never witnessed a more distressing scene,—460 persons of the finest regiment of the expedition when we arrived in China, lying on mattresses on the floors of several rooms of an extensive building, from the drummer-boy to the old soldier, variously afflicted with grievous complaints of dysentery, diarrhoea, and ague fever,—some dying, and all in want of many comforts requisite to their recovery, such as fresh and wholesome nourishment, good nursing and cleanliness, yet they were not to be procured; the sick were so crowded that with some difficulty we passed between their lines on the floor without inconvenience to them. The condition of many was quite hopeless. Sickness and mortality were so much on the increase, that of the original number of 3,500 who landed in July last, not more than 800 bayonets could then be mustered for duty."

A great many of the good eggs to which the French proverb refers were broken in the making of the Chinese omelette; and the omelette was not very digestible, after all! Sometimes we were well-nigh losing whole basket-fuls of our very best eggs; for instance—

"About sunset an entire company of the 37th Native Infantry was missing; two companies of the 49th were sent out in search. I was also requested to detach a company of Royal Marines for the same object. I selected the 8th, armed with percussion muskets, giving the command to Lieut. Whiting. Capt. Duff of the 37th accompanied him; and after a long and tedious march of six miles, through paddy fields filled with water, they succeeded, amidst much peril, in recovering this company, surrounded by Chinese, who were actively engaged in getting two guns in position for their destruction. The 37th were formed in square on a small mound, with their fire-arms, excepting one, unavailable from the rain's effects, and were only aware of their rescue and the proximity of

the marines by the latter firing a musket and giving three loud cheers, which were gladly responded to. The effect was instantaneous and most beneficial. The Chinese, not knowing the amount of force so unexpectedly near, separated a little; the 37th company retreated; and Lieut. Whiting, watching his opportunity, judiciously fired a volley or two amongst them, whereby the two companies were enabled to return to their respective corps unmolested."

Later in life Sir Samuel reaped some honours, and advantages which do not always accompany honours. Thus, when he was promoted from Commandant to Lieutenant-General, "he lost his good-service pension, and suffered other reductions in his income." Then, at over sixty years of age he married a widow, and he "allowed his name to appear as a director in the Direct Exeter and Plymouth Railway." The failure of the line led to the ruin of the old marine, who died, some half-way between seventy and fourscore, leaving his family unprovided for, and his widow pensionless. Government contributes 20*l.* a year each for two young orphan sons till they reach an age when education is supposed to be "finished." This was a gloomy ending for the young fellow who looked out of the port-holes of the *Ajax* at *Trafalgar*. One cannot help reflecting how different a story he might have had to tell if he had only stuck to his articles in the attorney's office in Yarmouth.

*Liber Monasterii de Hyda; comprising a Chronicle of the Affairs of England, from the Settlement of the Saxons to the Reign of King Cnut; and Chartulary of the Abbey of Hyde, in Hampshire, A.D. 455—1023.* Edited by Edward Edwards. Published by the authority of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, under the direction of the Master of the Rolls. (Longmans & Co.)

THE fortunes and vicissitudes of Hyde Abbey, near Winchester,—the "New Minster" of between eight and nine hundred years ago,—equal perhaps, in striking interest, those of any among our religious foundations of early times that fell a victim to the caprice of our eighth Henry and the unlimited rapacity of his courtiers.

Tracing this comparatively small but illustrious monastery to its very sources, the reasons for its foundation, not by Alfred the Great, as has been very generally assumed, but by his son, cannot be more appropriately explained than in the words of the editor's Introduction to the volume now under notice:—

"For more than two centuries the Abbey of Hyde was known as the New Monastery. The entire history of monasticism is—in one and not the least instructive of its aspects—a history of successive reformations. Not a few of these have been the result of the perceptions and reflections of men of vigorous character, and often of mature age, who have been suddenly transplanted into a new scene of labour, far remote from that of their own education and early efforts. New Minster was the result of the thoughts of Grimbald about what he saw at Winchester, and compared both with his knowledge elsewhere acquired and with his own ideal monastery of the future. This Chronicle testifies that it was chiefly King Alfred's anxiety for the better education of the children of his nobles which made him summon Grimbald from France; and that it was Grimbald's desire, as well as Alfred's, to make his new monastery pre-eminently a place of education. Alfred's long-nourished ambition to be himself the founder of the new community was frustrated, we are told, by death. But scarcely had Edward the Elder succeeded to the crown, when he was solemnly and publicly exhorted by Grimbald to carry out his father's plans. In this sense, Alfred may truly be called the founder of New Minster; but in this sense only."



The first mention of New Minster in the 'Book of Hyde' is in the account given of the embassy sent by Alfred to the Archbishop of Rheims and the Abbot of St. Bertin's Monastery, requesting their sanction to the transfer of Grimbald from that place, in order that he might establish, conformably with ecclesiastical ritual, a new monastery within the walls of the city of Winchester:—

"The desired permission was obtained, and Grimbald arrived in England in the year 884, or, according to the brief annals of Hyde, prefixed to its principal Chartulary, in 885. Why an interval of more than fifteen years should have elapsed between this arrival and Alfred's death, and yet scarcely the first steps have been taken towards the accomplishment of the main object for which Grimbald was avowedly invited, there is nothing in the 'Book of Hyde' to explain."

The first inclination of King Edward was to found the new Monastery at the expense of the old Cathedral Monastery of St. Swithun; but from this he was dissuaded by Grimbald, on being cogently reminded by him that "God will not accept robbery for burnt offering." Many of the nobles and clergy offering contributions towards its endowment, within two years the New Minster was built and decorated: whether Mr. Edwards is justified in asserting that it was not only new, but "stately," is more than we can confidently say, taking the word in its acceptance at the present day. The work of dedication completed, the remains of Alfred, its intended founder, and Ealhswith, his wife, were solemnly transferred to it from the Cathedral Church of St. Swithun. Receiving constant accessions of lands and benefactions from almost every Saxon king who succeeded to the English throne, in 965 it experienced its first revolution. In that year the Secular Canons, originally established there by Grimbald, under the Augustinian rule, were summarily compelled, by force of a Papal Bull of Pope John the Thirteenth, to assume the Benedictine habit or to vacate their stalls,—the actual robes and cowls being provided beforehand, and brought into the choir before their eyes. To submit to the Benedictine rule or to suffer the pains of expulsion, was their alternative. A small number took the cowl; the majority were expelled. A colony of monks from Abingdon replaced the deprived canons, under the abbacy of Algar, or Ethelgar. In the following year King Edgar issued his famous Code for the government of the newly-reformed abbey—a code which was doubtless the production of Bishop Ethelwold himself, acting in union with the all-powerful Dunstan.

The names of its earlier Abbots are unknown. "In Ethelgar," as the learned editor says, "we have not only a recorded name, but a character and career of marked savour and individuality." Trained originally under Dunstan, at Glastonbury, and at Abingdon under Ethelwold, the "Father of Monks," he eventually became Bishop of Selsey, and Archbishop of Canterbury; from his time the names of the Abbots are recorded.

King Cnut, the Dane, entertained towards the Abbey the spirit of munificence shown by his Saxon predecessors.—"His liberality to New Minster was shown by his grant of the manor of Drayton, in Hampshire, containing five hides of land, and by the gift of a magnificent golden cross, richly adorned with precious stones, with two great images of gold and silver, and with sundry relics of saints. This gorgeous and much-coveted cross figures very notably in the subsequent history of the abbey."

The beneficent spirit of the Saxon Kings towards the New Minster revived in Edward the Confessor and his mother. "The Dowager

Queen Emma, widow of Ethelred and of Cnut, gave, in 1041, to its altars—to reward the prayers of the monks for her deceased son, King Harthacnut—the head of that famous St. Valentine, who was decapitated at Rome in the year 270, and is honoured—not by the Roman Church alone—on the 14th of February. How this venerated relic came, after the lapse of nearly eight centuries, to England, we are not told. But thenceforth, at all events, the monks of New Minster showed to their admiring worshippers St. Valentine's sacred head, as well as the remains of St. Josse, and those of their truly venerable founder, St. Grimbald, in his rich silver shrine."

The second Abbot of the name of Elfwy, or Alwy, who assumed that office in 1063, was brother of Earl Godwin, and uncle of King Harold the Second; the result, of course, being that Harold's cause against the invading Norman was supported by the people of New Minster with all their might. Twelve of its stoutest monks, supported by twenty men-at-arms as their retainers, fought under the banner of Harold at Hastings; and there is reason to believe, Mr. Edwards tells us,—

"that the Winchester recruits, new as they must have been to such a scene, did not forget that 'their limbs were made in England,' but showed very gallantly the true mettle of their pasture, and fell almost to a man on the field. Utterly uncanonical as was such a fate, the fact must ever be regarded as not the least striking incident of that memorable battle, as well as a notable event in the annals of New Minster. The Conqueror, of whose grim pleasantries so many anecdotes survive, is reported to have said that the abbot must have been worth a barony, and the twelve monks a manor apiece; and that such should be the mulct inflicted on the offending community. But William's vindictive punishment was not to stop there. Two years passed before he would allow of the election of a new abbot. It may be well imagined that during that long interregnum the monastery, in all that remained of its worldly possessions, lay very much at the mercy of the Norman officials and of the Norman soldiery."

In the confiscation which so largely followed—the second revolution which overtook them—the inmates of New Minster were stripped by the Conqueror of broad lands and manors, in Hants, Wilts, Portsea, and Wight, amounting to little short of 17,000 acres. And not only in the loss of their more distant lands were these patriots of the cowl thus punished: another instalment of kingly vengeance was reserved for them, and one which they must have sorely felt—for some years at least:—

"The desire for the shelter of the walls of Winchester had originally cooped up the inmates in very narrow confines. So closely packed together were the two communities of St. Swithun and of St. Peter (the New Minster), that between the foundations of their respective buildings there was scarcely, we are told, room for a man to pass along. The old chronicler who has recorded this fact, and its consequences, in quite pathetic terms, goes on to say that the choral service of the one monastery conflicted with that of the other, so that both were spoiled; and that the ringing of their bells together produced a horrid discord. This being so, King William now deprived the monks of the younger community of one half of their narrow enclosure, and built thereon a royal palace. Perhaps he thought that such a neighbour would make it safe that on no future emergency would monks in armour ride forth from New Minster to battle."

Mr. Edwards, who is evidently well acquainted with these localities, has very thoughtfully illustrated his narrative with a diagram, showing the encroachment of the Conqueror's palace upon the New Minster curtilage.

We find these unlucky people next falling

under the tender mercies of the Red King and his unprincipled minister, Ranulph Flambard, or Passeflambard (*Pass-the-torch*); the latter of whom had the assurance to sell the then vacant Abbacy, by simoniacal contract, to Herbert de Losinga, Bishop of Norwich, by way of making snug provision for the bishop's father, Robert, who, according to the terms of the contract, was to contribute liberally to the exchequer of Rufus from the Abbey revenues.

In the earlier part of the reign of Henry the First, the monks of New Minster, thoroughly tired, no doubt, of their present locality, cooped up as it was between the Conqueror's palace and the church and premises of St. Swithun's, selected a new site for their Abbey, in Hyde Mead, without the walls of Winchester; the scene of the fabled combat between Guy of Warwick and Colbrand the Dane, and where, no doubt, in some preceding age, a "real and memorable combat between Dane and Englishman," as Mr. Edwards says, had taken place.

After much trouble in bringing the soil of this mead, which was of a soft and springy nature,—a "natural water-meadow," in fact,—to the requisite consistency for a foundation, by laying on adventitious masses of beaten clay, to a depth of near four feet, the New Minster rose once again, at Hyde, and in 1110 was ready to receive its inmates. In that year, "the monks of New Minster marched, in long procession, to their new home, carrying with them their sacred relics; the cross of silver and gold which Cnut the Dane had given, and William the Norman had restored; and the more precious remains of the illustrious dead who had so long reposed within their walls. Once again the body of Alfred was carried, in solemn pomp, to a new resting-place, where it was to lie undisturbed even by the sacrilegious excesses which so often degraded the Reformation of the sixteenth century. It was now to rest in peace till the verge of the nineteenth century, and then—only too characteristically—to be rooted up for the better accommodation of the Hampshire felons." The site of the old Abbey was forthwith surrendered into the King's hands, and by him transferred to the Bishop and monks of the Cathedral church.

The new-built Abbey lasted only thirty years. Dissensions between the monks and William Giffard, the Bishop of Winchester, speedily followed this change of site, and by his successor, Henry of Blois, also Abbot of Glastonbury, and brother of King Stephen, it was despoiled, devastated, and finally burnt; by the agency of "fire-balls" thrown from Wolvesey Castle, the Bishop's residence, into the part of the city and suburbs held by his adversaries. At least twenty other churches, the Chroniclers say, and the Abbey of St. Mary, shared its fate:—

"The crowning drop in the bitter cup of the monks of Hyde came after the raising of the siege, a raising precipitated . . . by the strange escape of the Empress Maud from Winchester Castle, concealed in a leaden coffin. When the many sufferers were groping among the ruins for such salvage as they could gather, our monks found that theirs was considerable. The Bishop . . . forced, or in some way induced, the monks to yield up the precious 'ashes' of the cross of Cnut, and of their other church vessels and furniture. Sixty pounds in weight of silver; fifteen pounds in weight of gold; three diadems, adorned with precious stones; two golden images of the Virgin and of St. John, one of which the Bishop stripped of its gold and gems; two silver patens, handsomely ornamented with gold; two very precious and richly-adorned lavers, of the sort called 'Salomonic'; a silver vase for holy water, given by Cnut; with numerous other precious vases, censers, reliquaries, and the like, figure in the long bills of indictment and of

damages which the monks sent successively to the king; to the universal judge of ecclesiastical appeals in that day, St. Bernard of Clairvaux; and to the Pope. The monks complained, also, of great ravages made by the Bishop on some of their estates; and they estimated their total loss as equivalent, in money, to the enormous sum of 4,862*l.* The suits against the Bishop dragged on their weary length for nearly twenty years."

The Abbey was but slowly rebuilt, and its restoration very gradual. Rudborne dates the reconstruction of the church in 1182; but 130 years after that date, Bishop Henry Wodlock states, in an episcopal letter, that part of the monastery was then still in ruins, and that the estates were insufficient for its complete restoration, and for the maintenance of due hospitality. For information as to the further succession of its abbots,—none of them, till we come to the very last, as Mr. Edwards remarks, distinguished for learning,—and the further fortunes and mishaps of the foundation, the insurrection of its tenants, its temporary surrender, from sheer poverty and inanition, into the hands of William Edyndon, Bishop of Winchester, and the benevolence shown to it by William de Wykeham, his successor, we must refer the reader to the lengthy and elaborate Introduction to the volume; to the research shown in which, equally with the text of the 'Book of Hyde' itself, we are indebted for the preceding facts.

The last, and perhaps the most able, of its Abbots, John Salcot, a favourite alike of Wolsey and of Henry the Eighth, took an active part in precipitating the downfall of Hyde Abbey. After duly making his terms with the King's Commissioners, headed by "Master Thomas Wrythlesley" (Wriothesley), a man as unscrupulous as himself, in April, 1538, a surrender of the monastery, and of all its possessions, was made into the King's hands; pensions being formally assigned to the Abbot, Prior, and nineteen other monks. Wriothesley had not been busy in the matter for nothing; he received, as a gift, several of the richest manors of Hyde Abbey, and a short lease of its site having been granted to him, apparently for that specific purpose, he lost little time in levelling the buildings with the ground, and selling the materials; this done, the reversion of the site passed, together with the demesne lands of the Abbey, by royal grant, to Richard Bethell. In the days of Leland and Camden, a few heaps of ruins alone marked the spot where the royal Abbey of Hyde had once stood. In 1788, its former site, then a field, was purchased for the purpose of erecting there a County "Bridewell," or House of Correction. Many stone coffins were discovered in the excavations, the bones in which were scattered about, and the coffins broken to pieces, or turned into water-troughs. Numerous patens, chalices, and rings were also found. Immediately in front of where the high altar had stood, three coffins, of evidently a superior description, were dug up; supposed, with every presumption of probability, to have contained the bones of King Alfred, his wife Ealhswith, and Edward the Elder, his son. The decayed lead of the principal coffin was sold as old metal for two guineas.—*Sic transit gloria mundi.*

The Chronicle of Hyde Abbey, published in the present volume, has been long known to the antiquarian world as the 'Liber de Hyda,' but only, during the last two centuries, through an abridged and unfinished transcript made by John Stow, the Chronicler, in 1572, now preserved among the Lansdowne MSS. (No. 717) in the British Museum. The original manuscript itself, after having been quoted by several Church historians in the early part of the seven-

teenth century, seems to have disappeared for a considerable time from public notice; only to be discovered by the present writer in 1861, in the Library of the Earl of Macclesfield, at Shirburn Castle, in Oxfordshire; its identification being owing to a description of the Lansdowne Manuscript in Mr. Duffus Hardy's 'Descriptive Catalogue of MSS. relating to the Early History of Great Britain' (published in the present Series), *sub anno* 959. How the manuscript found its way to Shirburn is now unknown; but whatever may have been its previous devolutions of ownership, the noble Earl, with a becoming public spirit and genuine liberality, has placed it unreservedly at the editor's disposal for publication.

Though commencing with the early Legend of Albina and Brut, and entering largely into the history of the Anglo-Saxon times, the 'Book of Hyde' is, in reality, a compilation from earlier and various sources, made at a comparatively recent date. From internal evidence Mr. Edwards satisfies himself that its date of compilation must be "subsequent to the year 1354"; but as there is a long quotation avowedly from the 'Historia Aurea' of John of Tynemouth, we may probably be justified in placing its compilation at a date considerably nearer the close of the fourteenth century.

This Chronicle, as it seems to us, was originally intended by its industrious compiler as a framework for the Abbey Chartulary, which it includes; a kind of setting in which its terrars, privileges and charters (some of which, no doubt, were genuine, while some again have a rather spurious look) were intended to be inlaid. And, indeed, next after those portions of its contents in relation to the history of Saxon times, the information given in which is not to be found elsewhere, these charters form the most interesting feature in the Chronicle; partly from the insight which they afford us of the early topography of the localities in the possession and the vicinity of the Abbey; but even more so from the fact that each Saxon document is accompanied by an English translation—not at all times, however, very accurate—in our vernacular of the latter half of the fourteenth century; affording excellent and abundant examples for the philologist of the middle English of that date. Latin translations, not superior in accuracy, are also annexed to the English. The documents thus carefully treated by the enthusiastic compiler are,—the will of Alfred the Great, the numerous grants of Edward the Elder, the privilege of Athelstan, the grant of Alfred, himself a grantee of Athelstan, grants of Edmund the Elder, the will of Edred, grants of Edred and Edulf, grants of Edwy, grants of Ethelred, the will of Ethelwold, the forfeitures of Wulfbold, and the will of Ethelmea. Of all these there are careful translations given by way of Appendix, from the pen of Mr. Edwards himself.

The Appendix also contains a smaller Chronicle of Hyde, A.D. 1035–1121; evidently, from its comparative fullness of detail, of some historical value. The editor informs us that he has omitted a leaf accompanying this fragment, "which," he says, "contains a geographical description of England (Britain?), with an enumeration of its episcopal Sees, and of the Shires respectively constituting its three great divisions of Westsexenlage, Danelage, and Mercenelage." The omission, to our thinking, is the less to be regretted, as in reality this sample of Anglo-Saxon geography is not of any great value; but such as it is, it has already made its appearance in this Series, 'Liber Custumarum' (in the *Munimenta Gildhalie Lond.*), pp. 624–6, from the Cotton MS. Claudius D. ii. Another Register of Hyde Abbey, which was formerly

in the library of the Dukes of Buckingham at Stowe Park, is now in the library of Lord Ashburnham in Sussex. Of this manuscript there is an elaborate description in the privately-printed 'Bibliotheca Manuscripta Stowensis,' of Dr. Charles O'Connor, to which, Mr. Edwards tells us, he is "the more indebted, as the facilities of access to the MS. itself are not now what they were at Stowe." We are sorry to read of such a fact as this; the very statement of it ensures the censure it deserves.

Mr. Edwards's volume concludes with a glossary of obsolete, corrupt and obscure words, a very useful index of places and of principal boundaries, and an elaborate general index. The errors that we have met with in turning over its pages are but of a trivial character and few in number. By an oversight in page xxxv, Emma, the widow of Ethelred the Unready and Cnut, is called the "queen of Edward the Confessor," whereas she was his mother; in page xxxiv, line 5, the date 955 is obviously an error for 995; and in page 112, line 11, for "virginculam" read *virgunculam*, as the classical form, if we remember aright, is the normal rule in these publications.

From what we have already said, our readers, we think, will consider us justified in congratulating Mr. Edwards on having added to the Rolls Series a well-edited volume of considerable value, both in an historical and a philological point of view.

*Thirty Years of Army Life on the Border: comprising Descriptions of the Indian Nomads of the Plains; Explorations of New Territory; a Trip across the Rocky Mountains in the Winter; Descriptions of the Habits of different Animals found in the West, and the Methods of Hunting them; with Incidents in the Life of different Frontier Men, &c.* By Colonel R.B. Marcy, U.S.A. With Numerous Illustrations. (Low & Co.)

A gallant officer, who has known "more than thirty years of service in the United States Army," a considerable part of which period was spent "on the frontiers, on the prairies, or among the far western mountains," Colonel Marcy has already made good his title to a place amongst writers of ability by 'The Prairie Traveller,' a book favourably spoken of by a large circle of readers. His present volume will prove no less delightful to persons who have a taste for narratives of adventure. Some of its illustrations of life in Arkansas and Texas are exquisitely droll, as well as broadly comic. Speaking of the rules which govern the American usage of "liquoring," the Colonel says: "Among the characteristics of the people of the United States, I know of no custom which exhibits a more marked contrast in their habits and those of their cousins on the other side of the Atlantic than that of the interchange of civilities over the social glass. . . . An acquaintance of mine, living in the Cherokee country, once visited Little Rock, and stopped at the Anthony House. Feeling fatigued and thirsty after a hard ride, he, on entering the hotel, went to the bar and called for a glass of liquor, when, to his astonishment, he said, 'Fourteen men who were sitting around stepped up and "lowed they'd take sugar in thar'n!" He paid for the fifteen drinks, as it was in strict conformity with the customs of the country, but he did not visit the bar again.'" On his return from the plains after exploring the Brazos river to its sources in 1854, he encountered, near a remote frontier house, a lovely American girl, whom he places before the reader as a model "prairie belle." Eighteen years in age, gracefully formed, possessing a musical voice,



and rarely endowed with respect to facial beauty, this young lady "wore a closely-fitting bloomer costume, with a jaunty little straw hat upon one side of her head, fastened under the chin with a pretty pink ribbon, and her luxurious natural hair curled in ringlets all over her shoulders. She was evidently the reigning belle of the neighbourhood, as well as the favourite spoiled child of her family; and she was just as wild, untamed, and free from the absurd, tyrannical conventionalities of society as the mustangs that roamed over the adjacent prairies. . . She inquired very particularly about our camping arrangements, and manifested a good deal of curiosity concerning the shape, material, and capacity of our tent. She had never seen one, it appeared, and I remarked to her that afterwards was pitched, if she would honour us with a call, she would have a good opportunity of seeing how very comfortable we could make ourselves in camp. At this she turned around, facing me, applied her thumb to her nose with her fingers extended, closed one eye, and, with her countenance assuming a most ludicrously severe expression, observed, 'I'm afraid of wolves, ole hoss.' As I was quite unconscious of having intended any disrespect to the young lady, I was a good deal surprised at this exhibition of indignation." At the close of his book the author gives some interesting particulars concerning that superb shot and enthusiastic sportsman, Capt. Martin Scott, whose prowess with the rifle is known to popular fame in connexion with the racoon, who, on finding himself within range of the captain's weapon, exclaimed, "I am a gone 'coon; you need not fire; I'll come down and give no trouble." Col. Marcy records of this "dead shot"—

"Some of his performances in rifle-shooting I have witnessed myself, and for great accuracy I must acknowledge that they exceed anything of the kind I have ever known before. One of the many instances where I have been present at his shooting will, I presume, suffice to illustrate this. He proposed to me, upon one occasion, that we should take an old-fashioned United States yager that he had, and determine which could load and fire three shots in the shortest space of time, and make the best target. Accordingly, a playing card, with a spot or bull's eye in the centre about the size of a dime, was attached to a log of wood, and placed at seventy-five yards from where we proposed to stand. Capt. Scott then took the rifle uncharged, with the powder-flask at hand, and the balls and patches in his mouth, and he made three shots 'off-hand' in one minute and twenty seconds. I then myself went to the target, and found one round hole directly through the centre of the bull's-eye. I was surprised at the precision of the shot, but observed to the captain that the other two had entirely missed the target. He shook his head and called for an axe, when we split the log, and found the three balls in one mass, all having passed through the same round aperture directly in the centre of the card."

Clearly the 'coon had good cause for his despair.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Harper's Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion.* Part I.—*To the Close of the Peninsular Campaign of 1862.* (Low & Co.)

THE only faults to be noticed in this well-written and profusely-illustrated history of the American War are, the size of its page and the weight of the volume. Large quarto is an inconvenient size for a volume that is addressed to a numerous public, and is intended for popular study. The clerk hurrying at the same time to knowledge and his office, the mechanic snatching the "odd minutes" of a day for self-education, the studious boy who likes to carry a volume in his pocket, and other students of a humble sort, have reasonable objections to heavy quarto books that cannot be read without the help of a reading-desk, and even then cannot be perused with the same facility as a

handy octavo volume. To the work before us these remarks apply with especial force, as the volume is very ponderous, and much of its contents is in very small type. Otherwise, the 'Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion' merits cordial praise. Many of its illustrative pictures are the best that we have seen in such a work; and some of the numerous portraits of prominent actors in the war are admirable as likenesses and works of Art. The tone of the book is enthusiastically—some would say *narrowly*—loyal; but in all points where we have tested its statements, the writers may be commended for severe accuracy. In accordance with honesty which characterizes most Northern accounts of the late struggle, the editor not only gives due prominence to the panic of Bull Run, but has the hardihood to illustrate its humiliations with a picture of the retreat.

*Types from the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, as illustrated in the Colours of the Rainbow.* By Mrs. Kelly. (Darton & Co.)

THE writer's subject is the covenant-bow, the witness, as is stated, of a life that St. John speaks of. God manifests himself in his mediatorial character as the bow in the clouds. The book exhibits a strange jargon and jumble, unintelligible, allegorizing, and absurd. Here is a specimen: "Our Lord is the Esau, having taken upon himself the nature of the dying child of Adam. Again, He is, as the uprooted child of the law, the lentil, or life-preserver; and, moreover, He is the Jacob, the supplanter, the hand that seethed the pottage and held it forth to his brother, that the birthright should be his, and his the beloved seed." Interspersed with such writing are various Hebrew and Greek words, which add to the grotesque incoherences and imaginings. Good sense is a quality which does not appear; and its absence is ill supplied by the farrago served up for the palate of such allegorizers as consent for the time to lay their reason aside.

*Memorials of Worcester.* By Mackenzie E. C. Walcott. (Birmingham, Wright.)

MR. Mackenzie Walcott is perhaps best known as a topographical writer by his book on Westminster. He has, however, written in illustration of so many places in England that there are few in which he is not known. Here we meet with him at Worcester, with a guide-book that a baby might carry in its hand, and grown-up people, without end, profit by. In some three dozen pages he has cleverly contrived to pack a vast mass of historical and local incidents that are not only interesting themselves, but are likely to induce, in those who read, a desire to know more about them, in full detail. Mr. Walcott states that Worcester "has borne more names than any town in England," and that "Hwic-wars-ceaster"—the castle of the inhabitants of the county of the Hwicci—was the original form and significance of its name. Its fighting period, as far as record tells, began in the seventh century, when King Eadwine of Northumberland drove the British King Ceadenalla through and out of the city. The period ended in the seventeenth century, when Charles the Second fled out of the county away from the pursuit of Cromwell. For nearly 1,200 years Worcester has been a cathedral city; and it is to be noted that its bishop, Wolstan, was the only prelate whom the Conqueror left in possession of his see. The principal portion of the book refers to the cathedral, which no traveller can visit with a better manual to help him than he will find in these 'Memorials.'

A cheap and convenient edition of the *Bacchæ* of Euripides (Parker) has been added to the "Oxford Pocket Classics." The notes give more assistance in the way of translation than those in other works of this series, long passages, and in one instance a whole chorus, being translated. The renderings are not always the best that could have been given, as, for example, "It is not wisdom to be wise; and more than mortal thought are shortness of days." This is neither good English nor a correct version of the Greek, which might be thus rendered: "Cleverness and sentiments unbecoming mortals are not wisdom; life is short." There is a curious misprint in the same note,  $\phi\acute{o}\beta\omicron\nu$  for  $\sigma\phi\omicron\beta\iota\nu$ , which seems to show want of care in revising.

—There is no remarkable merit in *The Guide to the Latin Language*, by E. Tickner, B.A. (Clarke), and *A Latin Reader*, by E. Tickner, B.A. (Clarke). The former is a first book, comprising grammar, reading and exercise book, not well arranged. It is a strange thing to put irregular before regular verbs, and mix up nouns, adjectives and verbs together, instead of taking them in succession, as they occur in all grammars. The vocabularies in both are too often on the same page as the reading lessons. They should be at the end of the book. There is a want of careful graduation in the order of reading lessons.—The opposite of this may be said of *The Complete Reader; being a carefully-graduated System of Teaching to Read and Spell by Means of Attractive and Interesting Lessons*, by E. T. Stevens and C. Hole (Longmans), which is one of the best books for teaching reading and spelling that we have seen. We think some of the reading lessons, particularly the earlier ones, might as well have been shorter.—Another good first book is, *First Steps in Geography, for the Use of Beginners, corrected to the Present Year*, by D. F. T. (Nisbet), which conveys much correct information in simple language, and within moderate limits.—*The Little Scholar's First Step in the German Language*, by Mrs. F. Lebahn (Lockwood), may be useful for very young beginners in German, if there are any such.—We are surprised that M. J. Gaillard, B.A., should have thought it worth while to publish his *French Orthoëpe; or, the Certain Guide to an Accurate French Pronunciation* (Philip & Son). It is a lengthy, elaborate, and pretentious attempt to teach pronunciation by the roundabout and necessarily imperfect method of written directions, which are rendered no clearer by a useless parade of anatomy, with drawings of men's heads. We cannot imagine any one having the patience to wade through the weary work, or if he did, gaining as much by it as he might pick up from half-an-hour's *vis-à-vis* instruction.—A far more practical book bears the title of *The Beginner's Comprehensive French Book*, by J. Delpech, B.A. (Trübner). It contains rules for pronunciation, the accidence of the grammar, reading lessons (some of which are closely translated, but not on the same page or opposite to it), exercises, and a dictionary. There are also a few useful grammatical questions. The Preface contains some sensible observations and directions as to the use of the book.—The two volumes entitled *History of Rome*, and *History of Greece*, by W. F. Collier, LL.D., (Nelson) are readable sketches, in which the biographical element is made to play a prominent part. While this undoubtedly increases the interest, it rather interrupts the continuity of the narration, and interferes with the unity and compactness of the historical representation. The reader's mind is so pre-occupied with persons that he is in danger of missing events and their mutual dependence. Occasional attempts at fine writing, and rather too rhetorical a style in general, do not add to the value of the books.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Alford's (H. D. D.) *The Year of Prayer*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
 Bohn's Standard Library, 'Coleridge's Biographical, Literaria,' 3/6 cl.  
 Bruce's (Mrs. C.) *My Father's Hand, and other Stories*, 16mo. 2/6 cl.  
 Copley *Annals preserved in Proverbs*, 8vo. 5/1 cl.  
 Crichton's (A. W.) *Naturalist's Rambles to the Orades*, 12mo. 4/1 cl.  
 Crisp (E.) on *Malignant Cholera, its Origin*, 8vo. 5/1 swd.  
 Cumberstone *Conquest* (The), 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
 Elisee's (Rev. C.) *Arithmetic*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
 Eton *First Greek Verse Reading Book*, 12mo. 2/1 swd.  
 Flack (Capt.) *The Texan Ranger*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
 Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* (Casell's Illust. Edit.), imp. roy. 8vo. 12/1  
 Frankland's (E.) *Lecture Notes for Chemical Students*, 8vo. 12/1  
 Gird's (A.) *Settles Mission, Stories on the Lord's Prayer*, 3/6 cl.  
 Halliday's (A.) *Town and Country Sketches*, post 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
 Herschel's (J. F. W.) *Familiar Lectures on Scientific Subjects*, 6/1  
 Hood's (Thea.) *Serious Poems*, edited by Lucas, fcp. 8vo. 5/1 cl.  
 Kingston's (W. H. G.) *Washed Ashore*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
 Macdonald's (Geo.) *Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood*, 3 vols. 31/6  
 Macmillan's Magazine, Vol. 14, 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
 Murray's (W.) *Emotional Disorders of Sympathetic System*, 3/6 cl.  
 Musher's (W. B.) *Practical Treatise on Apoplexy*, 8vo. 7/1 cl.  
 Nimmo's *Popular Tales*, Vol. 5, 'Hunt of the Glenken', 8vo. 1/1  
 Old Merry's *Annual*, 1867, sq. 5/1 cl.  
 Paget's (G. E.) *Harveian Oration*, 1866, 8vo. 2/1 cl.  
 Phillips's (R.) *Bethel Flag, Sermons to Seamen*, 12mo. 2/1 cl.  
 Phillips's (L. B.) *Autograph Album of Fac-similes*, 4to. 21/1 cl.  
 Poole's *Romane Specimens, in usum Scholæ Rugbeianæ*, 4/6 cl.  
 Recollections of the East, by a Subaltern, oblong folio, 21/1 cl.  
 Record of Zoological Literature, 1865, 8vo. 30/1  
 Stephens's (F. G.) *English Children as painted by Reynolds*, 21/1 cl.  
 Stewart's (B.) *Elementary Treatise on Heat*, 12mo. 7/6 cl.  
 Sunday Afternoons with Mamma, sq. 2/1 cl.  
 Theoretical Astronomy, Examined & Exposed, by Common Sense, 5/1  
 Venn's (J.) *The Logic of Chance*, 12mo. 7/6 cl.  
 Whately's (Abp.) *Life and Correspondence*, by Miss Whately, 28/1 cl.



## LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

In Messrs. Macmillan & Co.'s list there is an announcement of the completion of 'The Cambridge Shakespeare,' edited by Messrs. Clark and W. Aldis Wright. Among other works of interest are 'The Iliad of Homer,' translated into English accentuated Hexameters by Sir John Herschel, 'Legendary Fictions of the Irish Celts,' collected by Patrick Kennedy, and 'The Poetical Works of John Milton,' edited by Prof. Masson.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall announce for November Mr. Wornum's 'Life of Holbein,'—Mr. E. S. Dallas's 'The Gay Science,' meaning the science of criticism, 'Polynesian Reminiscences,' by W. T. Pritchard, 'Norway, its People and its Institutions,' by the Rev. John Bowden. Mr. Mark Lemon's 'Up and Down the London Streets' is in the press, as also is 'Nights in the Harem,' by Mrs. Emmeline Lott, the Governess to the Viceroy of Egypt, who startled our propriety a little by her first rough book on herself and her pupil.

Messrs. Routledge & Sons announce the following books for the new season:—'Wayside Poesies,' original poems of the country life, edited by Robert Buchanan, with illustrations, 'Gristle & Grotesques, or Jokes drawn on Wood,' with rhymes by Tom Hood, jun., 'The Pictorial Shakespeare,' a new and revised edition in eight volumes, edited by Charles Knight, 'Little Lays for Little Folk,' 'Quotations from Shakespeare,' a new selection of extracts, 'Monstrelet's Chronicles,' a new edition, and 'Longfellow's Poems,' a new red-line edition.

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.'s list includes 'The Two Centuries of Song; or, Melodies, Madrigals, Sonnets, and other Occasional Verse of the English Poets of the last Two Hundred Years, with Critical and Biographical Notes,' by W. Thornbury, 'An Illustrated Edition of Bishop Heber's Hymns,' 'A Selection of Sonnets; with an Essay on Sonnets and Sonneteers,' by the late Leigh Hunt; edited, from the original MS., by S. Adams Lee, 'Milton's Paradise Lost,' with the original Steel Engravings of John Martin, 'A Concordance to Milton's Poetical Works,' by C. D. Cleveland, 'The Masque at Ludlow,' by the author of 'Mary Powell,' 'A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life,' by the author of 'The Gay-worthys,' 'Celebrated Letters, selected and arranged, with Critical and Biographical Notes,' by Moy Thomas, 'Life in the Pyrenees,' by H. Blackburn, Esq., with upwards of 100 Illustrations by Gustave Doré, 'The Mission of Great Sufferings,' by Elihu Burritt, 'A Dictionary of Photography,' by Prof. Dawson, 'Richmond and its Inhabitants, from the Olden Time,' by R. Crisp, and 'A Second Cruise of the Rob Roy Canoe on the Rivers and Lakes of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and the Baltic and North Seas,' with numerous illustrations.

In Messrs. Strahan's announcements we find, 'Christ and Christendom,' the Boyle Lectures for 1866, by E. H. Plumptre, M.A., 'Our Father's Business,' and 'Out of Harness,' by T. Guthrie, D.D., 'Voices of the Prophets, on Faith, Prayer and Holy Living,' by C. J. Vaughan, D.D., 'Unspoken Sermons,' by G. Macdonald, M.A., 'How to Study the New Testament,' 'The Year of Prayer; being Family Prayers for the Christian Year,' and 'The Year of Praise; being Hymns, with Tunes,' edited by Henry Alford, D.D., 'Reminiscences of a Highland Parish,' by Norman Macleod, D.D., 'Familiar Lectures on Scientific Subjects,' by Sir J. F. W. Herschel, Bart., 'Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey in Europe,' by G. M. Mackenzie and A. P. Irby, 'Lives of Indian Officers,' by J. W. Kaye, 'The Reign of Law,' by the Duke of Argyll, and a Christmas-book, 'Touches of Nature,' by eminent artists and authors.

Messrs. Saunders, Otley & Co.'s new publications include 'The Universities' Mission to East Central Africa,' by the Rev. H. Rowley, 'A History of the Jewish Church, from a Christian Point of View,' by the Rev. S. C. Malan, M.A., 'Sermons by Gabriel, Bishop of Imereth,' translated and edited from the Georgian, by the Rev. S. C. Malan, M.A. Among new novels are, 'Philo: a Romance of Life in the First Century,'

—and 'A Wife and not a Wife,' by the veteran writer, Cyrus Redding.

Messrs. Lovell Reeve & Co. have in the press a work by the Author of 'Episodes of Insect Life,' entitled 'Live Coals, or Faces from the Fire'; also 'The Reasoning Power in Animals,' by the Rev. J. S. Watson, 'Meteors, Aerolites and Falling Stars,' by Dr. Phipson, 'The Edible Mollusks of Britain,' by Mr. S. Lovell, 'British Butterflies and Moths,' by H. T. Stainton, 'British Seaweeds,' by S. V. Gray, and 'British Grasses,' by M. Plue.

In Mr. Newby's announcements we note:—'Narrative of a Journey to Morocco in 1863 and 1864,' by the late Dr. T. Hodgkin, 'Some Work of Noble Notes,' by W. D. Adams, 'The Spas of Germany, France, Italy, Bavaria, &c.,' by Dr. T. M. Madden, and 'Landmarks of a Life,' a novel, by Miss Austin.

## THE IRISH CHURCH.

Dr. Maziere Brady, writing from Navan, Ireland, says:—

"You seem to have judged me on wrong grounds (*Athenæum*, Sept. 29). For (1.) if you had read my pamphlet 'On Irish Church Temporalities' you would have seen that the plan I there proposed would have strengthened the church and maintained its ministers in comfort, only removing the temporal ascendancy. (2.) Next, I have not taken up any new views since I ceased to be a chaplain to the Irish Lords Lieutenant. But some say that I was deprived of my chaplaincy because of these views. (3.) I have not assailed in the least the apostolical succession, only that from St. Patrick—see Froude, vol. 10, p. 481, for the same statements of the conversion of the bishops. (4.) Archdeacon Martin has not answered me, except you consider his *Billinggate* to be an answer. (5.) I shall be very glad if you or any one will point out a single instance of misquotation or inaccuracy of any kind in my pamphlet. I shall receive any such information with thankfulness, and if I have been wrong will confess it. W. MAZIERE BRADY."

We may add to Dr. M. Brady's letter some intelligence forwarded to us from Ireland, which is not without interest. When Archbishop Whately, about thirty years ago, was urging the Government to purchase the temporalities and abolish the territorial and parochial systems, the Protestant papers refused to insert the letters, written on the subject, by his chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Dickenson, who was therefore compelled to have recourse to the Roman Catholic papers, where, naturally, they were readily admitted. We are assured, on good authority, that Dr. Brady is being subjected to a similar system, and that nothing he has to advance on his side of the question can find insertion in the Irish Protestant papers.

## DERIVATION AND MEANING OF "BONFIRE."

Llandaff, Sept. 29, 1866.

CAN you assist me in deciding upon the correct etymology of the word "bonfire"? The following passages contain the two earliest instances of the use of the word amongst the materials prepared for the Philological Society's English Dictionary:—

"I have heard of a custom that is practised in some parts of Lincolnshire, where, on some peculiar nights, they make great fires in the public streets of their towns, with bones of oxen, sheep, &c., which are heaped together before. I am apt to believe that this custom was continued in memory of burning their dead, and that from hence came the original of *Bonfires*."—About 1550. Leland's Collectanea, Bagford's Letter, vol. i., p. xxvi.

"Item, the xxij day of May was the Assencion day, and at nyght was made grete *bone-fyers* thorow all London, and grete chere in every parych at every *bone-fyer*, and grete melody with dyvers instrumments."—1556. Chr. of Gr. Fr. of L., p. 47 (Camden Soc., 1852).

In Fox's 'Book of Martyrs,' v. iii. pp. 96, 624 (1562-76), the word is spelt according to modern usage. Holinshed ('Chronicles,' v. iii., p. 884, col. i., 1577-87) writes "bonfire." Spenser ('Epithalamion,' l. 275, Wks. 1842, v. V. p. 374)

"bonefier"; and Shakespeare (1 Hen. IV., act iii., sc. 3, ed. 1623) "bonefire." T. Fuller ('Church History,' Book ix., p. 52, 1655) jestingly speaks of burning an "unhappy bone of contention" "in a *bonfire* of general joy"; but a few years later he writes: "I meet with two etymologies of *bonfires*. Some deduce it from fires of bones, relating it to the burning of martyrs. But others derive the word (more truly in my mind) from *boon* (that is, good), and *fires*, whether good be taken here for great, or for merry and cheerful, such fires being always made on welcome occasions."—1660. 'Mixed Contemplations in these Times.'

The old spelling, "bonefire," occurs in Hudibras, Pt. iii., canto 2, p. 165 (ed. 1694), the *Spectator*, v. viii. p. 237 (Nov. 5, 1714), and North's 'Examen,' Pt. 3, c. 6, par. 92, p. 492 (1740).

In Cotgrave's French and English Dictionary (1611) we find "Feu de behourdis, a bone-fire," and Minshew's Spanish-English Dictionary (1623), and Howell's English-French Dictionary (1660), both give "A bonefire, Feu de joye."

Todd, in his edition of Johnson's Dictionary (quoting the derivation preferred by Fuller, and followed by Skinner and Johnson, and another by Lyne from *boon-fire*, i.e. a fire made of materials obtained by begging) says, "Our old literature will confirm, I think, the orthography of bone-fire, and show that its primitive meaning is a *fire made of bones*," and cites the following passage (which is evidently mutilated, though I have no means of comparing it with the original): "In worship of St. John, the people waked at home and made three manner of fires: One was of clean *bones*, and no wood: and that is called a *bonefire*. Another is clean wood and no bones; and that is called a wood-fire, for people to sit and wake thereby. The third is made of wood and bones, and is called St. John's fire."—Quatuor Sermones, 1499 fol. c. i.

Mr. Wedgwood suggests another derivation, treating the prefix "bon" as equivalent to the Danish word "baun," a beacon, a word of which we have traces in several English names, as Banbury, Banstead (Dictionary *sub voce*). Dr. Latham, without discussion, appears to accept this theory. Webster is undecided between this, and that adopted by Dr. Johnson; but for the former he gives the only kind of authority which I can find, namely, the Welsh word *banffagl*, a lofty blaze, bonfire. Worcester follows Johnson without any remark.

ROBERT W. GRIFFITH, B.A.

## MODERN BIOGRAPHY.

Capetown, August 20, 1866.

UNLESS I have been anticipated, as I probably may be, by some one nearer home, let me call your attention to a most ridiculous blunder, or rather a piece of absurd gullibility, on the part of the author of 'Modern Eccentrics,' published in the July number of a monthly periodical.

Years ago, to wit, in 1825, Charles Lamb contributed to the *London Magazine* an apocryphal 'Biographical Memoir of Mr. Liston.' The article is in Lamb's most amusing style, brimful of grave humour and ludicrous contrasts, bristling at every point with the raciest irony, and was, as I need scarcely add, as true of Liston as it would be if now published of Thomas Carlyle or Ruskin.

The pedigree of the popular actor was to be traced, according to the genealogical Elia, to "Johan de L'Estonne (for which we are referred to Domesday Book), who came in with the Conqueror, and had lands awarded him in Lupton Magna, in Kent." Johan de L'Estonne was standard-bearer to "Hugo de Agmondesham, a powerful Norman baron, who was slain by the hand of Harold himself at the fatal battle of Hastings." From the standard-bearer we come to "John Delliston, Knight, who was high-sheriff for Kent, according to Fabian, *quinto Henrici Sexti*," and from him skip again to "Aminadab Liston," who flourished in the reign of James the First, and "was of the strictest order of Puritans," and the author, moreover, of an, unhappily, rare tract bearing the inviting title of 'The Grinning Glass, or Actor's Mirrour; wherein the vituperative Vismony of Vicious Players for the Scene is as virtuously reflected back upon their mimetic Mon-

strosities as it has viciously (hitherto) vitiated with its vile Vanities her Votaries!

From Amiadab the Puritan we come (the family becoming more schismatic as it recedes from the knightly stock) to Habakkuk Liston, an Anabaptist minister, and father of the player.

We next have the history of Liston himself, as ludicrous and veracious as his pedigree. In his early youth he was afflicted with the measles, and was only cured, "under heaven," by a copious diet of *Sauer-Kraut*, the taste for which savoury and wholesome dish stuck so thoroughly to the son of Habakkuk from thence forward and for ever, that "when any of Mr. Liston's intimates invite him to supper, he never fails of finding, nearest to his knife and fork, a dish of *Sauer-Kraut*." "At the age of nine we find our subject under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Goodenough," whose tragic demise (in an old shaft, sunk "by Sir Ralph Shepperton, Knight and member for the county") is too harrowing to be repeated, and "the joint death of both his parents" following not many months afterwards, the orphan is thrown "on the protection of his maternal great-aunt, Mrs. Sittingbourn," whose estate of Charnwood was, like Lupton Magna, situated in *Kent*, and not in Leicestershire. In the venerable solitudes of Charnwood, Liston "cultivated those contemplative habits which have never entirely deserted him in after years. Here he was commonly in the summer months to be met with, with a book in his hand—not a play-book—meditating. Boyle's 'Reflections' was at one time the darling volume; which in its turn was superseded by Young's 'Night Thoughts,' which has continued its hold upon him through life. He carries it always about him; and it is no uncommon thing for him to be seen, in the refreshing intervals of his occupation, leaning against a side-scene, in a sort of Herbert-of-Cherbury posture, turning over a pocket edition of his favourite author!"

But death followed where Liston trod—a pot of charcoal terminated the venerated life of his maternal great-aunt, "at the premature age of seventy," and the future comedian makes his exit from Charnwood, where "water was his habitual drink, and his food little beyond the mast and beech-nuts of his favourite grove"—"arid beech-nuts," which, "distilled by a complexion naturally adust, mounted into an occiput already prepared to kindle by long seclusion and the fervour of strict Calvinistic notions," and produced, "in the glooms of Charnwood," "illusions similar in kind to those which are related of the famous Anthony of Padua," which said illusions, in short, ultimately "influenced his future destiny," and made Liston the most grotesque actor of the day.

I need not quote more (and would not have quoted so much, but for the fact that this facetious memoir is singularly omitted from the collective edition of Lamb's works) to show that the 'Biographical Memoir of Mr. Liston' is a transparent jest, a broad grin, an Elian Flan, scintillating with humour. Will it then be believed that the compiler of the 'Modern Eccentrics' has actually, and in most sober sadness, "condensed" Elia's quiz into a memoir for the benefit of the readers of the periodical to which I have alluded!

It seems incredible that obtuseness could go so far; but what completely establishes it (and I must confess tickles me especially) is the simple astonishment of the innocent compiler that the above "details" "are not referred to in the sketch of Liston's career, written a few days after his death, March 22, 1846, by his son-in-law, George Herbert Rodwell, the musical composer, and published in the *Illustrated London News*, March 28th." I have often heard the silly story of Liston's queer faces being made in imitation of visionary aspects which haunted him at all hours; but I little thought of seeing the nonsense dished up afresh. In compassion to the writer of 'Modern Eccentrics,' let me warn him that there is a companion-memoir of Munden, also by Lamb, which he had as well eschew as a trustworthy authority.

HOTTENTOT.

#### AMERICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY.

*Cecy est un livre de bonne foy.*

4, Trafalgar Square, Charing-Cross, Oct. 4, 1866.

I had the good fortune a few days ago to secure in the Row a large-paper copy, in 4to., price *8l.*, and a small-paper one, in royal 8vo., price *4l.*, of a portly volume of nearly 600 pages, sumptuously printed, at the Bradstreet Press, in New York, and entitled 'Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima; a Description of Works relating to America published between the years 1492 and 1551. New York, Geo. P. Philas, 1866.' The author's name is Henry Harrisse, and it will not take an indifferent reader long to see that he has worked hard to give the world a manual much needed. How well he has succeeded, the same world will in due time, no doubt, find out.

Under ordinary circumstances, I should not trouble you or your readers; but as M. Harrisse has gone out of his way repeatedly in his book to befoul me and my friends, and to endeavour to snuff out our lights, I venture reluctantly to ask a corner in the *Athenæum* for explanation and defence. I have no wish to pulverize him now, but simply to bring him to with a blank-cartridge, and examine his papers. A monitor sinker is preparing for him to be ready whenever occasion requires hereafter. My credentials are twenty-five years' hard service in the study of the bibliography of American history and literature, never unmindful of early-printed and rare books in general. Having undertaken this branch of study, and judging that London was the best centre of operations, I came to Europe as soon as I had taken my Master's degree, in 1845, and from that time to this have not hesitated to do what every one must do who wishes to reach the bottom of this subject. I pulled off my gloves and coat and descended into trade, and if buying and selling the books and manuscripts that I required to investigate can entitle me to the appellation of bookseller, I am not unwilling to adopt it. Why I make these observations, the readers of M. Harrisse's book will understand. It ought also, perhaps, to be mentioned here, that having recently gone over the copies of my invoices since 1845, I find that probably nine-tenths of the rare books in the three best libraries described by M. Harrisse were collected, described and supplied to their present possessors by me, to say nothing of the vast number of other rare books gathered from all parts of Europe, and exported. Experience and loyalty to my chosen pursuit seem to call me out. M. Harrisse opens with:—"The abnegation practised by true scholars in every branch of knowledge is one of the most interesting and striking features of the age in which we live. With the recognition—daily more and more absolute—of the inter-dependence of the sciences, this abnegation has come to be the test of scholastic worth and loyalty."—(p. i.)

And closes with:—

"As we cast a parting glance over the long array of dissertations, notes and descriptions which precede this concluding page, and notice the numerous errors it has behoved us to correct in the works of others, the relief we experience in the completion of our undertaking is mingled with feelings of doubt and apprehension. The consciousness, however, of having performed the task honestly is our consolation and reward. Let those who may feel disposed to follow in our wake treat us as we have treated our predecessors; and if they can inscribe on the title of their work Montaigne's epigraph, *Cecy est un livre de bonne foy*, we will cheerfully abide by the result."—(p. 458.)

M. Harrisse's idea of *abnegation* seems to be, judging from his whole book, an inordinate assertion of M. Harrisse and Mæcenas, and a total denial of any merit in his predecessors or fellow-labourers, especially if they be booksellers.

The mischievous part of the Introduction is more than thirty pages devoted to an account of some forty authors and booksellers who have written on books relating to America. M. Harrisse has scarcely a good word for any one of them, and his biographical and historical statements are for the most part wild and erroneous. After enumerating and punishing all he desired to name, he concludes:—

"We know of several other catalogues, some of which are exclusively composed of American books, while a certain number, although covering the entire field of history and literature, contain many valuable titles; but they are chiefly lists prepared by booksellers." And then in a note,—*"The following from a New England bookseller settled in London, is printed with remarkable accuracy:—Historical Nuggets: Bibliotheca Americana or a Descriptive Account of my Collection of rare Books relating to America Henry Stevens GMB FSA. Lond. 1862, &c."*—(p. xli.)

As this "certain American bookseller" can mean nobody but me, in the two following paragraphs I readily own service, and gladly avail myself of this opportunity to respond and explain:—

"It is the 'Examen Critique' of Humboldt..... We regret to say that the manuscript additions which were to complete the work are, owing to the culpable remissness of a certain American bookseller in London, probably lost. If so, it is the greatest misfortune which could befall the student of American history."—(p. xlii.)

"That third section [of *de la Cosa's Chart*] never was published; but after Humboldt's death, his library (which was composed of presentation copies of modern works) was found to contain a set of the five volumes of the first issue of the 'Examen,' which the compiler of the Catalogue (*The Humboldt Library*; Lond. 1863, 8vo. 11,164 items, No. 4658) describes as 'having numerous manuscript additions in the autograph of the author, who evidently contemplated a supplementary volume.' This assertion is confirmed by the following note in the *Cosmos* (Bohn's edit. vol. ii. p. 631), 'I here give the principal results which are contained in the sixth (still unpublished) volume of my 'Examen Critique.' Steps were immediately taken to purchase this valuable set, with the view of translating the work into English, and of adding biographical and bibliographical annotations, which are now embodied in the present 'Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima.' The order came too late, as the set had already been bought by a gentleman of this city. Unfortunately, the work was not delivered at the time of the purchase. Three years have now elapsed, and Humboldt's supplementary volume to the 'Examen Critique' is still missing. It is not even known what has become of those precious additions, which no work, as yet written, could possibly replace, and without which the early history of America can be only imperfectly studied and analyzed. We sometimes hear the name of that bookseller praised; but let the reader imagine the bibliopoles employed by Peirece, for instance, guilty of such gross negligence, what calamities would the historian of Science and Literature have to record!"—(p. xliii.)

The simple answer to all these charges is, that the sixth or supplementary volume of the 'Examen Critique' never came to London, and never belonged to me. When I bought Humboldt's library, of some 17,000 volumes, I did it long after it had been hawked all over Europe and America, for many months. It was large and valuable, but nobody wanted it all. I bought only the books, and not his unpublished manuscripts. The 'Examen Critique,' described in No. 4658 of the Catalogue, was, no doubt, an interesting relic of the great philosopher, and contained, in his own hand, some five or six pages of small notes, corrections, and additions. They were, doubtless, intended to be used in a subsequent edition. The volumes, with no fault of mine, were injured or destroyed in the great fire in Wellington Street, in June, 1865. M. Harrisse may have taken steps; but I never heard of any order from him for the book, and the purchase was never effected by anybody else. The whole story is, no doubt, a pure invention by M. Harrisse. He wanted an excuse for shooting his rubbish into his 'Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima.' We now know what are the notes, &c., he said he had prepared for a new edition of the 'Examen Critique,' and can only congratulate the memory of Humboldt on the fortunate escape.

Speaking of Mr. Rich, who died in 1850, he says,—

"He was much regretted. A gentleman by birth and education, Rich was a very different man from



several of those who now attempt to follow in his wake. Entirely reliable, he scorned to resort to the dextrous artifices now so much in vogue to enhance the price of a book; and modest, because he was really learned, he never thrust himself before the public, or worried reading communities with loud and egotistical appeals, from which a true bibliophile would turn with disgust."—(p. xxxi.)

"His (Mr. Rich's) means being limited, he visited London at intervals, for the purpose of disposing, by private sale or by auction, of the rare works which he was continually collecting in Spain. It is to this circumstance that we owe the formation of the four greatest collections of books in America, as well as the American portion of the 'Bibliotheca Grenvilliana,' which contains gems not to be found in any other library. These four American collections are located as follows: one in Providence, Rhode Island; one in Washington city; and two in New York, the Aspinwall collection having been removed hither from Boston in 1863."—(p. xxix.)

As an old and intimate friend of Mr. Rich, and one who holds his memory dear, I must pronounce these statements simply untrue. He supplied very few books to Mr. Grenville, I am informed. The honour and credit belong to others. And to the three private libraries in Providence, Washington, and New York, to my certain knowledge, he supplied very few books, the owners having other correspondents in London.

Speaking of A. Asher's Bibliographical Essay on the Collection of Voyages and Travels by Levinus Hulsius and his successors, M. Harrisse says:—

"Although full of interest, and a praiseworthy effort in the proper direction, this description is not as reliable as hypercritical collectors would desire." Then in a note—"For instance, the 1st edit. of part v is not 1601, but 1599; it is the second which is dated 1601, instead of 1603. The 1st edit. of part x is not 1613, but 1608. The 2nd edit. of part xiii is 1617 (like the 1st, with variations only in the title and prel. ll.), instead of 1627. The earliest issue of the 3d edit. of part v is 1603, instead of 1612. There is no dedication to Ander Schiffahrt's 2d voyage (Nuremb., 1602); the text in Raleigh's Guiana (Part v, 1601) is in 18 pp. instead of 17. In part iv, 1599, there are fifteen plates, including Schmidel's portrait, instead of 'sixteen besides the portrait, &c.' . . . "It is therefore necessary to add to Asher's Memoir the collations published by Quaritch, the London bookseller; although these covers [sic] only the first editions of Hulsius [sic]."—(p. xxvii.)

If poor *Ander Schiffahrt* has no dedication to his second voyage, he certainly has now a good introduction, which will no doubt compensate him, and make him welcome to all the libraries of Europe. He appears, we are happy to say, as large as life in M. Harrisse's Index. The words simply signify "Another," or "Second Voyage."

How M. Harrisse attempts biography:—

"Antoine de la Sale, one of the wittiest of French writers, lived between the years 1398 and 1461. The present work ['La Salade,' Paris, 1527], which was composed for his pupil, John of Anjou, Duke of Calabria, seems to have been written between 1438 and 1447, and places its facetious author side by side with Adam of Bremen, Oedericus Vitalis, Torfi [i.e. Torfeus], Rafn and Karl Wilhelm."—(p. 261.)

All this learning, which will require the aid of several biographical dictionaries to appreciate, is expended on a book which has nothing whatever to do with America, the subject in hand. Two whole pages, including what is *unsaid* in the *errata*, are thus thrown away.

How M. Harrisse attempts history:—

"The startling discoveries of Columbus, Cabral, Vasco da Gama, Magellan and others, gave a new impetus to the geographical science, which, so far as we are concerned, culminated in the present edition of Ptolemy [Rome, 1508], which contains the first engraved map representing the newly re-discovered isles and hemisphere."—(p. 108.)

How the discoveries of Magellan, in 1519–1521, can be made to "culminate" in the Ptolemy of 1508 puzzles me at present.

How M. Harrisse names and stands godfather to a printed Codex:—

"The next collection of the four voyages [Lettera di Amerigo vespucci, &c.] is in Italian, and seems to have been printed at Florence about the year 1516. We call the latter the 'Grenville Codex' from its last possessor, Mr. Thomas Grenville."—(p. 62.)

This little printed tract of sixteen pages is probably the only 'Codex' of the kind in Europe. There are five references to it in M. Harrisse's Index.

In describing a well-known monograph of Mr. Squier (whose name he persists in spelling Squiers) he informs us that:—"The biographical notices are extracted from the *Bibliotheca* of Beristain, while many of the titles are derived not from an examination of the works themselves, but from the notices in Vaguel [he means Remesal] Vasquez, Cogolludo, Villagutierrez, De Souza, and similar sources."—(p. xl.)

After having referred to the distinguished Mexican bibliographer J. M. Beristain de Souza's name under seven different forms, he here divides it and makes two authors of him.

After having taken leave, on page 458, as quoted above, M. Harrisse adds "Additions," "Appendix," "Index," and finally eleven pages of "*Emendanda et Corrigenda*," and concludes with—

"These are the errors and omissions which, up to the present date [May 15, 1866], have come to our knowledge. Should some of those which have doubtless escaped our notice be discovered in time, a supplement will be issued. Meanwhile, it may prove interesting to the reader to be informed that the proof-sheets of the present work have been read by four careful proof-readers. . . . *Iterum vale*."

Very interesting, certainly. The four proof-readers had, no doubt, taken leave before "*Iterum vale*" made its appearance. Hence it stands out boldly as a fitting monument to the accurate scholarship of M. Harrisse. It ought, perhaps, to be mentioned that the possessors of the large-paper copies are not favoured with this monument; for in that edition the parting words are the tame old *Iterum vale*.

The book at bottom is not a bad one; but the author has made it a mere fact-bag, and crammed it with no end of extraneous matter. Like the jackdaw he does not appear to be able to resist anything bright, but picks it up regardless of its use or relevancy. The style of printing the titles in *apparent* facsimile misleads, and is a mistake. The collations are often obscure and not precise enough. There is a distressing want of uniformity in the orthography of names of places and persons. The mis-spelling of names is astounding. It is no exaggeration to say that the *errata* of names alone will make a list of 500. Two persons are made of one; one is made of two. Some are created altogether, witness *Ander Schiffahrt*. Chronology is set at defiance. Geography is obscured. History is in a muddle. Grammar and the Queen's English tortured, if not murdered. Acknowledgments are generally wanting where most required, and often given where not deserved. The index, though extremely full, is not trustworthy, names being left out of it purposely, or certainly not by accident. Evidences of bad temper are abundant, and flippant flings which can always be parried are plenty. M. Harrisse quotes largely at second-hand, and omits to mention the books most used. His general and particular scholarship is lamentably deficient, his pedantry and plagiarism manifest, his want of courtesy to predecessors and fellow labourers, his spite and obscure vision as to the merits of others, are apparent throughout. These are some of the faults which should be looked to in a future edition.

I hear with feeling akin to national pride that the author of the '*Bibliotheca Americana Vetusissima*' is not an American, and that therefore this book cannot fairly be charged to American scholarship. I am glad to hear that the edition is already sold off and the book at a premium in New York, especially the large-paper copies.

Let the above remarks may be ascribed to the jealousy or pique of the English press, I take the whole responsibility; and thanking you for the space afforded me, remain yours,

HENRY STEVENS, of Vermont.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

A new edition of the works and letters of Charles Lamb is in preparation by Mr. W. Carew Hazlitt, to be published by Messrs. Moxon & Co. The existing text of the letters and some of the essays is known to be inaccurate; and Mr. Hazlitt hopes that the possessors of even scraps of Lamb's handwriting will aid in making the forthcoming edition perfect, by allowing him to inspect the autographs.

Dr. Beke is preparing a new and enlarged edition of his account of the British Captives in Abyssinia, and of his unsuccessful mission for their liberation.

A new edition of Dr. Lardner's work on the Electric Telegraph is announced for publication, revised and re-written by Mr. E. B. Bright, Secretary of the British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company. It will contain new chapters on the Atlantic Telegraph and the Telegraph to India, with descriptions of the cables and the apparatus employed in laying, testing and working them; also of the means adopted in raising the Atlantic Cable of 1865.

Among the gay and glittering Christmas books, the coming of which begins now to be heralded, is a fairy tale, of an original character, by Mrs. S. C. Hall. The text will be accompanied by numerous illustrations, two of which will be from designs by Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Ward. The title of the book is '*The Prince of the Fair Family*.'

Mrs. Dallas, better known to the general public as Miss Glyn, will, in the course of November, give six Shakspearean Readings, at the Hanover Square Rooms. It is hardly necessary to say that one of them will be '*Antony and Cleopatra*.'

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, with Mr. John Parry, will re-open the Royal Gallery of Illustration on Monday evening, the 15th instant, with the old excellent entertainment, '*The Yachting Cruise*' and '*The Wedding Breakfast*.'

Some persons, in reference to the "*two Dromios*" now acting at Drury Lane, affirm that no two individuals can be so alike as not to be readily distinguishable. Not very many years ago, however, the twin sons of one of the eminent medical men named Babington were, the one at Charter-House, the other at St. Paul's School. The respective schoolfellows of the young Babingtons were constantly mistaking the one for the other, however often they met.

Many an anecdote has been recorded of the pilfering habits of certain lovers of old books, to which a pendant has been contributed in recent years by autograph-collectors. A flagrant instance of legerdemain in the autographic line may be seen, as perhaps not a few tourists will remember, in the *Livre des Voyageurs* of the Hôtel du Dome, at Randa, in the Val St.-Nicolas. In June, 1865, Lord Francis Douglas wrote his name on the first leaf of that book while on his way "from Visp to Zermatt." The name has been cut out by some keen autograph-collector, and an unsightly gap now remains as a memorial of the hapless young nobleman, and of a disgraceful theft. A + has been inscribed at each end of the gap, and on the opposite page some traveller has written—"The name of Lord Francis Douglas, who was killed on the Matterhorn, has been stolen from the opposite page by some autograph-hunter. Stranger! I pray you pity the bad taste and the weak conscience, and wish better manners to the no doubt amiable thief." To this, some other traveller has appended a note—"Tuft-hunter, who will frame it, and put it over his mantelpiece." Whoever the culprit may have been, we trust he was not an Englishman. With that signature the book at Randa had a touching interest, which it has now lost, and which would have given it a permanent value among the archives of the village. On the other hand, will the stealer ever dare to exhibit his prize? Will it not, by its form and appearance, always testify against him?

Mr. Frank Buckland has published what he calls a "valuable hint" for oystreiculturists, and shows them how to prevent the growth of the green weed, which, if left unchecked, favours the accumulation of mud on oyster-beds. Dredging and hoeing have been tried, but still the weed grows



between high and low water-mark, and the quality of the oysters deteriorates. Mr. Buckland's hint is, Strew the weedy ground with periwinkles. In those little creatures Nature supplies the check. See how soon they will clear a weedy aquarium. Taking advantage of the hint, some of the Whitstable proprietors have thrown thousands of periwinkles on their foreshores, and had the satisfaction to see that the weed was all eaten clean off from the oyster-beds in a surprisingly short space of time.

A member of the family of Monk, Duke of Albemarle, Mr. Blayney Cole, the grandson of the Earl and Countess of Rathdown, made his first appearance on the stage, last week, at the Limerick theatre, as *Hamlet*. The *Limerick Chronicle* believes he has relinquished "more tempting advantages for pure devotion to the drama." Mr. Cole's powers are highly praised by the local papers, and the praise may be well founded; but when we see some of the Glasgow papers speaking of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean in terms which imply that, when they withdraw from the stage, the sun of England will have set for ever, we distrust local criticism.

We have to record the decease of Mr. S. Stone, who, although known but to a very limited circle, pursued the practical study of British natural history and archaeology to a great extent, as testified by the various donations made by him to the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, and the Oxford New Museum, as well as his numerous communications to the Society of Antiquaries and the Entomological Society, and many others in the *Naturalist*, *Zoologist*, &c. From early life up, he resided in the secluded hamlet of Brighthampton, near Standlake, Oxon, where, led by the accidental discovery of a few Anglo-Saxon beads, with a skeleton dug up in the village, he was so fortunate as to find an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, which was subsequently excavated very successfully under the superintendence of J. Y. Akerman, Esq., the then Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries. The numerous relics here discovered are deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, where, in conjunction with the Douglas Collection (figured in the 'Nænia') and the "Fairford Graves" Collection, presented by W. M. Wylie, Esq., they form one of the most extensive Anglo-Saxon collections in existence. Mr. Stone also succeeded in discovering the remains of a British village, consisting of a number of circular sunk pits, on Standlake Common. These he also caused to be excavated with great care, a detailed account of which is given in 'Archæologia,' vol. xxxvii. The whole of the urns found during these excavations are also preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, together with a model of the dwelling, as cleared out, made and presented by Mr. Stone. Mr. Stone was also a very close observer of the habits of insects, especially bees, wasps and hornets, respecting which he made several remarkable physiological discoveries, as, for instance, the fact that worker wasps born in the early part of the summer, and long before the appearance of the males, are able to produce fertile eggs, which are capable of being developed, not into males, but into other workers. The dexterity which he acquired in the management of wasps, in making them, as it were, work to his will, was extremely interesting, of which an enormous nest in the Oxford New Museum, built by several colonies working in concert, and a series of curiously-formed nests in the Nest Room of the British Museum, are examples. Mr. Stone died on the 10th of September last, in the 55th year of his age.

A word may be allowed to note the shifting of the standard of respectability. A witness at the trial of Thurtell, some forty years since, testified to the murderer's respectability, on the ground of his keeping a gig. Last week a woman, whose daughter had been married and deserted by a Frenchman, who had a first wife living, excused herself (before a magistrate) for not inquiring into the Frenchman's character by saying that he had a Crystal Palace Season Ticket!

A very noteworthy article, from the pen of Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, in a recent number of *The Fortnightly Review*, draws attention to the Russian Burns, Alexis Vasilievich Koltsof, a poet whose works have hitherto been as unknown to the majority

of lettered Englishmen, as the language in which they are written. Under a burden of accumulated sorrows that had their origin in disappointed love, feeble health, narrow means, and sordid circumstances, Koltsof made a brave fight in the battle of life until his physical powers, too weak for the long endurance and continuous exertion by which strong men sometimes triumph over malignant fortune, succumbed to death before he had completed his thirty-fourth year. Having rendered homage to the heroism and poetic truth of this brief and mournful career, Mr. Ralston gives some very musical translations of Koltsof's verse. It was thus that the poet sang of his first love and first great woe:—

#### FIRST LOVE.

Her whom I loved in early years  
So well, so tenderly—whom filled  
With a first passion's hopes and fears  
A heart which time has not yet stilled—  
Can I forget her? Day by day I strive  
Her well-loved image from my mind to drive;  
To find new dreams my old dreams to efface,  
And let another love my early love replace.  
But all in vain. I strive and strive, and yet  
Whate'er I do I never can forget.  
When in the silent hours of night I sleep,  
She comes in dreams: once more I see her stand  
Beside my couch; once more her accents steep  
My suffering soul in bliss: once more her hand  
In mine so gently, mournfully, she lays,  
While her dark eyes on mine in sadness gaze.  
Speed, kindly Time, my thoughts from her to sever,  
Or set me free with her to live for ever.

The great bridge at Runcorn, to which we have repeatedly referred as among the most gigantic modern works of its class, is now nearly finished. Progress in the same direction, and to a like extent, has been made with the buildings for the new Exchange at Liverpool.

In old times the English in Paris found endless amusement in going to see 'Les Anglaises pour Rire.' In later days they found similar amusement in reading the anti-English speeches of the Marquis de Boissy. This source of enjoyment has also passed away. The crazy Breton gentleman has recently died; and the official jester of the French House of Peers has left no successor.

We referred last week to the report that Mr. W. Harrison was to play *Faust* at Drury Lane, and we also stated that the character had been assigned to Mr. E. Phelps. The latter gentleman will sustain the part, Mr. W. Harrison playing *Valentine*.

An Association, the object of which is to obtain legal power to compel water companies to afford a continuous instead of an intermittent supply of water,—of water that shall be purer in quality and cheaper in rate than that now supplied,—has been started, with the good wishes of the entire public. The medical men on the Committee are Drs. Clark, Horace Jeaffreson, and C. Murchison.

European opinion (including much of Germany) is unanimous in censuring the bad taste and ungenerous feeling of the Prussian authorities in encouraging dramatic pieces and caricatures full of offensive vulgarity against the Emperor of Austria and his family.

M. Barrière has in his possession a series of letters written by Madame Du Barry after the death of Louis the Fifteenth. They contain a love story, of which the Countess and a foreign nobleman of the highest rank are the only characters. The rise, progress, crisis and dénouement are to be traced, according to M. Barrière, as "through a thick veil." This gentleman adds: "We often find expressions quoted as said to be uttered by Madame Du Barry which belong to the worst days of her youth. There is nothing of the sort in the letters of which I speak. They show that the lady was strictly on her guard when writing them; and we contemplate her altogether in a new point of view." The tone, manner and language of the letters are described as those of Versailles; but we are not sure that this says much for them, and it is not clear to us whether, under the title of autograph letters of Madame Du Barry, we may not be having one of those clever French love stories which are so pleasant to read and so little to be relied on as history. On this point, however, judgment must be reserved till the letters are fairly before the public.

In M. Sainte-Beuve's last work, 'Nouveaux Lundis,' one of the critical and descriptive sketches is so disparaging to its subject, the late Alfred de Vigny (author of 'Cinq Mars,' &c.), that M. Louis Ratisbonne has announced a work in defence of their common friend. The position of M. Sainte-Beuve and the late Alfred de Vigny may be guessed at by a *mot* of M. Patin, delivered at a private sitting of the "Académie,"—at De Vigny's reception by which body he was almost immolated by M. de Molé. "Sainte-Beuve," said M. Patin, "est impatient, mais Vigny est impatientant."

A young French lady has been authorized by the French Minister of Public Instruction to go through what the *Lancet* calls "a preparatory course of medicine at Algiers," in order that "through her the boon of medical science might penetrate the tent and harem of the Arab, where no male doctor would ever be admitted." Surely male doctors have not been prohibited from entering the Arab tents, and it is not there that Mademoiselle should look for patients.

While horse-flesh butchers are selling horse joints, and the *charcutiers* are vending horse-meat sausages legally in France, the vegetarians are feebly asserting their existence in the British Isles. A meeting of those who eat no meat was held last week in Dublin. As fast as the vegetarians quoted Scripture for, the audience cited Scripture against them. The assertion that, as the poorer Irish live principally on vegetables, they are better fed than the English or the Scotch, excited derisive laughter. As the chairman stuck to his text, some one asked him, "What he would do if duty called him to the North Pole, where there were no vegetables!" The chairman, not being quite as brisk as a pea, with an answer, as he might have been, was nonplussed by the query; and the meeting broke up, with neither side convinced.

Balzac, Frédéric Soulié, Eugène Sue, Roger de Beauvoir, Chauxdesaignes, Léon Gozlan, are among the French authors whose position was earned by an excessive exercise of imagination and of mental industry generally. Of them and of similar workers in France men say lightly, "Well, they live by it!" Jules Janin, in advertising to the nature of the deaths of the above writers, in a notice on Léon Gozlan, replies, "Yes; and they die of it!"

Two Continental newspapers, one of which has had the longest life and the other the longest name, have ceased to appear. The first is the *Frankfort Post-Zeitung*, founded, in 1616, by the Prince of Tour and Taxis, and continued by the princes of that house till Taxis and Hapsburg and the Postal Confederation broke up. The second defunct is the *Rousselsatrschnieuwedigingsblad*, a Flemish paper, whose very readers must have been out of breath in pronouncing its name.

MR. MOREY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 24, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—E. M. Ward, R.A.—Holman Hunt—J. Phillip, R.A.—T. Faed, R.A.—Egg, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Ross Bonheur—Henriette Browne—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Creswick, R.A.—Pickersgill, R.A.—Calderson, A.R.A.—Sant, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Andsell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—P. Nasmyth—Linnell, sen.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—F. Hardy—John Faed—Frère—Ruiperez—Lidderdale—George Smith—Duyverger—Peter Graham, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

#### SCIENCE

##### GEOLOGICAL MIRACLE ASSUMERS.

7, Mornington Road, Sept. 29, 1866.

A notion seems to be entertained that the fashionable geological theorists not only account for the chief phenomena, but that they do so without invoking miracles, or even any agencies not known to us in extant nature. The *Fortnightly Review* having lately suggested a parallel between the miracles thought necessary to account for facts of religious history and the assumptions made for geologic theory, another writer therein exclaims that "Sir Charles Lyell and Mr. Darwin would be greatly astonished to be told that their theories involved any agencies not known to exist in the present course of nature." He forgets that the question is not whether they would be astonished, but whether the charge would be true. Now, sup-

posing these writers had shown, as Mr. Fiske assumes they have, but which I totally deny, that all past changes of the Earth, or even their most conspicuous and common effects,—common low-land valleys, for instance,—were “to be explained from the continuous action of causes like those now in operation.”—I undertake to prove that, even then, the very continuity, or non-interruption, thus assumed by Sir Charles Lyell as a first postulate, would involve what is contradictory to the visible course of present nature.

In 1840 the late King of Denmark instituted a prize for the observation of comets, a part of visible nature. We know of no course of nature without them; and now observe the statistics elicited. In the quarter-century 1840-64 inclusive, being the only one in which this motive to their discovery existed, the number of cometary visits observed was ninety-nine. Of these only nine were of comets either already known or found in those years to be periodic; and these nine are certainly known to have paid us, in that period, *nine* other visits. Humboldt's estimate, then, that half the perihelion passages occurring escape our observation, is fully confirmed, even in the case of visits expected and partly watched for. But we plainly cannot assume a greater proportion of the unexpected visitors to be observed than of the expected ones. Therefore, in estimating the probable number of visits in the quarter-century, having certainly to double the nine, we must, at the very least, double the ninety also; and thus the estimate can by no means be brought below 198 per quarter, or 792 per century.

We have next to seek any evidence as to this frequency being variable with time. As the telescope has not been thus applied even two centuries, we can only turn for this to the non-telescopic ones as a sample of all. From Arago's table of those observed by the naked eye, in Europe or China, during each of eighteen centuries, I take these numbers: first nine centuries, 237; last nine, 234; first six, 157; second six, 168; last six, 146; first two, 45; last two, 33. In the two-thirds of our own century Europe has seen twelve. These figures then, on the whole, rather indicate decrease than increase. Most certainly they will not allow us to assume at any past time fewer cometary visits than at present.

But in the following argument we are concerned with only those whose perihelion distance is less than the Earth's. According to Arago and Hind, the perihelion passages at approximately known distances, that were either observed or certified to have taken place (by the observation of both earlier and later ones of the same body) up to the end of 1840, were these:—

223 visits of 223 comets, whereof 56 exterior, 172 interior.			
7 .. Halley ..	0 ..	7 ..	
24 .. Encke ..	0 ..	24 ..	
14 .. Biela ..	0 ..	14 ..	
3 .. Faye ..	3 ..	0 ..	
4 .. Di Vico ..	4 ..	0 ..	
4 .. Brorsen ..	0 ..	4 ..	
3 .. D'Arrest ..	3 ..	0 ..	
6 .. Méchain ..	6 ..	0 ..	
8 .. Winnecke ..	0 ..	8 ..	
301 ..	72 ..	229 ..	

Of 301 observable passages, then, more than three-fourths are interior; and this ratio, applied to the 792 of an average century, shows that fully 600 must be reckoned as dipping into a sphere whose diameter is that of the Earth's orbit. Now, please to imagine such a sphere, or spherical surface, materially existent as a film, and that anything passing through this film carries away a bit of it, and leaves a hole. This dome-like film, then, is pelted with 600 comets per century, each of which makes a hole at its entry, and a similar hole at its exit. By “comets” I mean, throughout this letter, their spherical and ponderant heads alone. The reader will further please to suppose every hole thus made is repaired with new film before the next comet's arrival. Now, without being learned in the calculus of chances, he probably understands the way Peter Simple deduced the figure expressing his chance of being shot in the head during a given engagement, taking the number of balls received by the ship, the area of holes thus made, and the whole area of her broadside

section as his data. Well, as Peter's head, or, to simplify it, his nose tip, regarded as a mathematical point, was always somewhere in that sectional area, so is the Earth, or her centre, always in the surface of our said spherical film. If we knew, then, the joint area of all the holes made therein during a given time, this area, compared with that of the whole film, would express the chance the Earth runs, or rather that her centre runs, of entering during that time one comet's head. Of course, there is a certain time in which the holes made will equal the whole surface, but without having covered it, because many holes will have overlapped; and no longer than this will be the average time to be reckoned upon between comet-fall and cometfall, regarding what they fall on as a mere point. Or, for a better average, if we could ascertain how many times the film's whole area is exceeded by that of the holes made in a given long period, as a million years or centuries, this would be the average number of comets picked up by the Earth in each million years or centuries, supposing none to fall that do not more than half envelop her in their heads.

It will now be clear, too, that if we would extend this reckoning to lesser immersions, but still omitting all effect of the Earth's attraction in promoting them, we have only to enlarge our supposed holes to the dimensions they would have if each were made by a ball whose radius was that of the comet *plus* that of the Earth. These enlarged holes I will call ellipses of danger. As no comet meets the film perpendicularly, the holes will all be ovals, whose average lengths and areas we will presently consider; but meanwhile their breadths will depend only on the comets' sizes, which is the next element whose statistics we have to seek.

Arago and Hind give many measures of *nuclei* or the brightest condensed parts, but few of the whole transparent heads. These are known to vary in size as they go to or from the Sun; and I find only the following diameters taken at about our distance from him:—

	English Miles.	Earth Diameters.
Lexell's Comet I. 1770 ..	204,000	or say 25
Comet I. 1780 ..	260,000	.. 33
Comet of 1807 ..	156,000	.. 19
Comet I. 1811 ..	1,125,000	.. 140
Encke's in 1828 ..	312,000	.. 39
Halley's in 1835 ..	357,000	.. 44
Comet I. 1846 ..	248,000	.. 31
Brorsen's in 1846 ..	130,000	.. 16

This last, a telescopic one in all positions, can by no means be held the eighth largest of the past century, nor even Halley's the second largest. But, as Mr. Hind says, “the great majority of comets are under 100,000 miles diameter, and very few over 200,000,” let us, in making this *minimum* estimate, take the extreme supposition that, out of the 550 bodies which pay us the 600 visits of a century, only eight equal the above measures, and all the rest average but half the size (the face) of Brorsen's. Then the widths of the ellipses of danger, and their areas if they were only circles, or not elongated by any obliquity of the passages through the film, would stand thus:—

Comets Passing.	Width of Ellipse in Earth-Diameters.	Area of Circles in Earth-Sections.
1 equal to No. I. 1811 ..	141 ..	19,880
1 equal to Halley's ..	45 ..	2,025
1 equal to Encke's ..	40 ..	1,600
23 returns of the same ..	— ..	44,800
1 equal to No. I. 1780 ..	34 ..	1,156
1 equal to No. I. 1846 ..	32 ..	1,024
1 equal to Lexell's ..	26 ..	776
1 return of the same ..	— ..	776
1 equal to that of 1807 ..	20 ..	400
1 equal to Brorsen's ..	17 ..	289
16 returns of the same ..	— ..	4,624
540 averaging half thereof ..	— ..	75,400
593 visits.		152,750
		2

Areas of circles made, going and returning 305,500

This total must now be increased in the ratio that the length of the elliptic holes, on an average, exceeds their breadth. This elongation will, in all cases, be as the secant of the angle at which the comet's path cuts the film; and this will, in the common case of a sensibly parabolic path, depend solely on the perihelion distance. I will suppose

all the paths parabolic, and this will give, observe, in all the cases of elliptic ones, too small an obliquity and elongation of the holes; for a comet of elliptic path will enter and leave the film more obliquely than one in a parabolic path of the same perihelion distance.

We have measures of 180 interior perihelia, which may be classed according to their distances from the Sun as follows; and I add the mean secant or elongation of the holes for each class:—

Number of Comets.	Perihelion Distances.	Mean Secant.	Sum of the Secants.
20 ..	under 2 ..	1.05 ..	20.1
25 ..	2 to 4 ..	1.20 ..	30.0
41 ..	4 to 6 ..	1.43 ..	58.6
17 ..	6 to 7 ..	1.70 ..	28.9
22 ..	7 to 8 ..	2.03 ..	44.6
23 ..	8 to 9 ..	2.70 ..	62.1
11 ..	9 to 95 ..	3.81 ..	41.9
5 ..	95 to 96 ..	4.73 ..	23.6
4 ..	96 to 97 ..	5.33 ..	21.3
3 ..	97 to 982 ..	7.07 ..	21.2
1 ..	at 999 ..	31.62 ..	31.6
8 doubtful whether interior, say	20'00 ..	160.0	

180 .. 180 543.9

General mean .. 3.02

The sum we obtained then for the areas of danger supposed circular, must be fully tripled for their ellipticity, making it equal 916,500 sections or great circles of the earth. Now, for the surface of our entire film, the Sun's distance being now fixed at about 11,500 earth-diameters, we have  $4 \times 23000^2 = 2,116,000,000$  of the same units of area. Dividing this number by 916,500, we find the chance in one century, of running into one comet's head, is fully one in 2,308; or, in other words, comets are now falling on us at the rate of at least one every 2,308 centuries, or between 4 and 5 per million years. But, bear in mind, as we have no means of approximating to a real average, how essentially a *minimum* estimate this is, and how many and extreme our assumptions in that direction alone; as (1) that no greater proportion of unexpected comets pass unseen than of expected ones; (2) that only one of the 1811 class visits us in a century, though it is pretty certain there have been others comparable to it, even one of those of 1864, according to the South American observations; (3) that no larger one ever passes, even in a period of 2,000 times our whole experience; (4) that only one other in a century reaches a thirtieth of its bulk, though the one which does so is known to return every 75 years, and Encke's, which is not much smaller, every 3½ years; (5) that all the 600 passing in a century, except the largest one, barely amount to the volume thereof, though it is plainly more natural and likely that (if more than eight had been measured) we should find the largest to contain, say, a quarter of the bulk of all the 600 than half; (6), and lastly, that we have left out all effect of the Earth's attraction, though it is certain there are comets which undeflected could not touch her, yet, in a near approach, would, by this cause alone, be infallibly attached to and collapse upon her; as any of but slightly inclined orbit, eastward motion (which all of low inclination have) and a perihelion distance, even if exterior, as near our own as those of 1684, 1723, IV. 1851, II. and III. 1862, &c., almost grazing our orbit in our own direction.

But to give an idea what trifling discoveries might any day immensely raise this estimate, while none can lower it, let us suppose, not a comet of the 1811 class to appear, nor any addition whatever to the above centennial estimate of the amount of cometary matter passing, but simply that the 1811 monster, instead of holding eight times the aggregate bulk of the 550 others, were reduced to half its measured diameter, and the material thus removed were shared among the 550 in the ratios of their above-supposed sizes, which would still not raise the largest to a third the bulk of “1811” thus despoiled. This slight change of mere distribution, a sober guess, I think, at what might be a more average 550 than the particular 550 above considered, will be found to nearly quadruple the chances of encounter, or raise the frequency of falls to nearer twenty than five per million years.

You will now appreciate the first great assumption of *miracle* which I charge the Lyell school with making, and which is fundamental to their



geology. They constantly ask for a trifle of some "million years," or (as Mr. Darwin prefers) "centuries," of geological continuity. Now, the "present course of nature" affords nothing of the sort. In the present course, comets are falling on the earth at a rate of several per million years. In fact, if, as I believe, they are right in inferring from the thirteen miles of sedimentary strata, that our earth has revolved a million years, to say this is to say that she has picked up sundry comets; or, in other words, that our present ocean and atmosphere, one or both, consist wholly or partly of the material of comets that have collapsed upon her. To deny this is to assume some agency unknown and inconceivable, by which either the Earth is made to avoid all the comets, or they to avoid the Earth; and this, with Mr. Fiske's leave, is assuming agencies "not known to exist in the present course of nature." Doubtless, the shorter demands may be no more physical impossibilities than it would be to suppose the clouds and showers happening to leave a spot of England a whole year unwetted. But this would be decried as assuming "a miracle." If none then are to be assumed at all, I have shown you how the stars in their courses fight against Lyell, and allow not his first fundamental demand of "continuity without cataclysms." For a comet, being undeniably ponderant, cannot fall on earth without occasioning a cataclysm. Grant it to be as light, in the very nucleus, as the best vacuum in Geissler's tubes, yet the suddenly added pressure of such an atmosphere, extending half-way to the moon, will greatly exceed those loads by the shifting of which—by the sediment, for instance, carried down from Alps to sea,—Sir Charles has latterly learnt to account for the most sudden elevatory earthquakes. And as you may bring a pair of unbalanced scales ever so nearly to a level by sufficiently large equal additions, this would also be the first tendency of such sudden and equable addition of pressure on continents and seabeds alike.

EDWARD L. GARBETT.

#### STAR SHOWERS.

Sept. 29, 1866.

ALLOW me to bring under notice, through your columns, the following fact, which may be deemed of some interest. My attention was drawn to it in consequence of reading Mr. Alexander Herschel's lecture at the Royal Institution, 'On the Shooting-Stars of the Years 1865-6.' In Cicero's third Oration against Catiline, occur these words,—"*Vixit nocturno tempore ab occidente faces, ardoremque celi.*" The phenomena here referred to must have occurred some time during November, since the first Catiline Oration was delivered on the 8th of that month. Is it not therefore probable that this was one of the "November showers of meteors"? Further, the date assigned to the Catiline conspiracy is B.C. 63, that is, the 38th year of the century. Now Mr. Herschel states that, "between the 13th of October and the 13th of November, during the years from A.D. 903 to 1833, not less than thirteen great star-showers have been recorded. They are separated from each other by the third part of a century, or by some multiple of this period, and are periodical re-appearances of one grand meteoric shower, *vis.*, that seen by Humboldt in 1799, and by Olmsted in 1833, the star-shower expected to return in the present year, and known by the name of the great November shower." The thirty-eighth year of the century is not very far from the thirty-third, in fact is sufficiently near to connect Cicero's prodigy with Humboldt's great November shower of meteors. There is, I am aware, some little room for doubt in this identification afforded by the various alterations to which the Calendar has been submitted; but this will be found, I believe, to be capable of explanation; and I would ask those who are students of such matters to give an opinion on the question. I venture to make these few remarks simply as an inquirer, and in order to draw attention to the possibility of identifying some of the more accurately-described "prodigies" of the ancients.

E. RAY LANKESTER, Chr. Ch. Oxford.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

THURSDAY, Horticultural, 3.—General Meeting, and Lecture.  
WED. Microscopical, 8.

#### FINE ARTS

*Scripture Prints from the Frescoes of Raphael in the Vatican.* Edited by Lewis Gruner. (Houlston & Wright.)

THIS book is not intended for the artist or archaeological student. Thus much, without looking at the illustrations it embodies, we gather from the suavely-written and highly-pretending Preface which has been contributed to it by the Rev. Charles H. H. Wright, who, being British Chaplain at Dresden, modestly says that he has undertaken this to introduce to the British public these "Scripture Prints" from frescoes by the most popular artist in the world, and has done so, says the reverend preface-writer, "not only because of the intrinsic value of the work itself, but also on account of the esteem in which I hold its talented editor." We do not know what the "talented editor"—who, be it noted, is not also the draughtsman of these transcripts, but simply the "director" of them, whatever that may be—may feel with regard to the obligation which has been imposed upon him by Mr. Wright's willingness to be Raphael's sponsor with the British public; but we are, by his own words, convinced that the sponsor is as ignorant of the public as of the art to which he refers, and that his affability to Herr Gruner and Raphael covers an unusual want of competence for the task he has undertaken, and, with the same soft veil of self-esteem, masks audacity in assertion so extraordinary as to be excusable only on account of the writer's obvious incapacity to judge what he was writing about.

Mr. Wright, in his introduction, avers: "The object for which this work was undertaken was to promote a feeling for the higher principles of Art in their application to the service of Religion." Parenthetically, it may be pointed out that the highest authority declares we must, before all things, serve God with truthfulness. With safety this time, the sponsor for Raphael says further,—"*The stories of Holy Writ are often remembered longer, and produce a greater effect, when they are not only related to the ear, but submitted to the eye; and this has been so universally felt that many works have been published with a view to meeting this requirement. It cannot be wondered at that engravings of such a nature, which, in order to effect their object, must be sold cheaply, should not in general be of the best quality; and therefore it is the more important that something really good should be placed within the reach of all those who may be desirous of raising their children's taste, as well as of improving their Scriptural knowledge.*" The Frescoes of Raphael are peculiarly suited to this purpose, but the copies of them usually published have done the originals little justice, and the peculiar fineness of Raphael's pencil is utterly lost sight of in them. The greatest care has been bestowed upon this work in order to save it from the faults of its predecessors, and to render it in every way worthy of general patronage."

What the Rev. Mr. Wright may think he means by such a phrase as "the peculiar fineness of Raphael's pencil," as cited here, is beyond our powers of guessing. If he means, as is probable, that the aim of the painter was to produce a series of magnificent decorations, and to exemplify some of the most recondite principles of Art, upon the walls of the papal palace, he is so far correct. But putting the Rev. C. H. H. Wright aside altogether, it is to Herr Gruner that we turn, because he has a sort of professional reputation

to lose, and at the end of his name a string of official titles, "Professor of Engraving at the Academy of Arts, and Director of the Department of Engravings, Royal Museum, Dresden,"—being, withal, an experienced editor; we turn to this gentleman for an explanation of the countless blunders, the incomparable displays of ignorance that occur in this work, every plate of which bears his name as "Director."

It is not credible that several of the designs, which are so badly reproduced in the series before us, were the work of Raphael's hands. The quality of the mass of frescoes is broken throughout,—most unequal in every respect as concerns the art and genius that produced some, or the vapid, spiritless scholasticism which left others to be admired by the ignorant and lamented over by the thoughtful. Grandly simple are the designs of the 'Expulsion from Paradise,' 'Adam and Eve,' 'Abraham and the Angels,' 'The Flight from Sodom,' 'Joseph's Dream,' 'The Finding of Moses,' 'The Triumph of David,' and some others, of equal quality. These are, beyond a doubt, prime and entire results of the ability of the great master; noteworthy, even among his labours, for solid dignity, grace and simplicity of composition, suavity and wisdom of expression, perfect studying of their draperies, and, above all, the clear conception they evince as in their designer's mind when they were produced. On the other hand, it is hard indeed to accept even the design, as it might have stood originally, before it was reproduced on the walls of the Vatican, of such a picture as 'Noah's Sacrifice,' for the work of Raphael's intellect; commonplace as this is, it exhibits none of that penetration which, glowing through the much-ravaged 'Cartoons,' still shows where the master's hand was impressed, and, as here, by its absence where the help of an inferior had been invoked to aid in filling spaces that were impracticable to any single hand, or to deal with subjects that might not have attracted his spirit to exercise itself upon them. 'The Blessing of Esau' is another of these unfortunate compositions,—these weak, inept and scattered designs. It is curiously worth while to compare Raphael's treatment of that supremely difficult subject, 'The Vision of Jacob's Ladder,' with the version of the same by Rembrandt, as shown in the admirable sketch now in the Dulwich Gallery. Some of the designs to which we here refer seem to have attracted the master with extraordinary force: thus, 'The Return of Jacob' contains parts in its composition which even Raphael never surpassed, and exhibits a conception of the subject which, while rich in grace and suavity, recalls something of the qualities in which Mantegna shone at his highest. The affected mannerism which marked so many of the master's works, and was soon to be so fatal in its adoption by Raphael's unequal followers, appears at times to be strangely allied with that earnestness and simplicity of conception which distinguished the earlier schools of Art, in Italy or elsewhere. This is remarkably the case with 'Moses receiving the Tables,' where the principal incident of the theme is given in the most downright fashion,—an extraordinary contrast to that motive which urged Mr. Herbert to work out his somewhat demonstratively theatrical and highly artificial allied subject, not long since completed at Westminster. The angels, blowing trumpets, in this design of Raphael's, are not inadmissible, even now, to those who will place themselves in the line of thought that was prevalent with the composer. The figures of the Israelitish elders and others who occupy the space of rock-landscape that would, without them, be drearily vacant, immediately below the



great display, are trivial, and their presence in a design obviously Raphael's only to be accounted for by making allowance for the effect of those vicious conventionalisms which were the canker of true Art in the sixteenth and following centuries, and only too powerful in operating on the skill of the Urbinate, too effective in marring his conception, and often nothing less than ruinous.

As to the execution of the ambitious series of transcripts before us, copies the aims of which we have already stated on the authority of the Preface, it is right that we should point out on what sort of blunders, displays of ignorance and incompetence, our strictures are based. They are so vast in number as to refer to nearly every figure in the forty plates before us, not one of which is well drawn; some are but barely passable, the mass being worse than indifferent. In short, the general quality of the publication is so bad, that nothing but its lofty pretensions and the inexcusable manner in which they have been fulfilled, together with our disgust at the dishonour offered to the subject, would have led us to consider them in detail. As they are, however, it is our positive duty to expose the pretences of the Preface, by pointing out that here is Raphael travestied in the name of Art, and the cause of education made the vehicle for some of the most unworthy exhibitions we know.

The abject state of Art in the Eternal City is well enough known; it is felt and acknowledged that Rome contains nothing vital in design. Wealthy to profusion in treasures of that which is past, she is now the resort of those who mistake the schools of design for the fields of originality,—of men, like Gibson, who think all sculpture must be like the antique, confound archaeology with living Art, and are content to live out of themselves, so to say, indifferent to their own existences, so that they may enjoy the reflexion of that which can never live again. Thus much the world knew, and expected no good in Art to come from Rome as a place of study. Still, it was until now kept from the public knowledge that an educated gentleman, and an official of high technical standing in Dresden, which is considered one of the Art-centres of Europe,—such is Herr Gruner's status,—would permit such an unskilled sketcher as Signor Consoni appears, if these plates do not belie him, to be described as "one of the most distinguished draughtsmen in Rome." Either this statement is utterly false, or not only is knowledge of what is good drawing lost in Dresden, but even draughtsmanship—one of the least rare attainments in Art—is unknown in the city of St. Peter. For example, if Raphael drew such a dumpy, short-legged Noah as figures in 'The Building of the Ark,' so contorted a son of the Patriarch as the well-known sawing figure appears in the work before us, he would never have attained the laurel. 'The Deluge' is rife with blunders of this sort: see the woefully misconstrued body of the man who, with an arm that has been dislocated by Signor Consoni, drags his wife out of the waters by her hair. Puerile is the execution of the youngest son of Noah in 'Leaving the Ark'; huge the patriarch's head, ludicrously obese his body. In 'Noah's Sacrifice,' the son who brings the ram has arms that defy anatomy to describe; another son, who brings water, a head that would have astonished Baccio Bandinelli himself by its bigness. 'Abraham and Melchisedek' shows the latter with forearms that palsy could not further ravage, scrofula more painfully twist. In 'The Blessing of Jacob,' the head and face, no less than the arms, of the moribund father, are bad beyond our conception. It is hard to find Raphael under the wretched disguise that has

been put upon him by Herr Gruner, and that woefully bad artist of whom he is very comically styled the "Director." Nothing but unfathomable ignorance could have permitted this publication to appear with the pretences of its preface-writer. As to its "promoting a feeling for the higher principles of Art," nothing of the sort will happen.

#### FINE-ART GOSSIP.

No publication of the season will surpass in artistic interest of the highest order that by Messrs. Bell & Daldy of the entire series of Flaxman's noble designs to the Divine Poem of Dante, the three sections of which comprise not fewer than 108 compositions in outline. The original plates, untouched, are used for this purpose. The comparatively small number of impressions that were in the first instance taken from these plates, no less than the severe and broad manner of their execution, admit of little question as to the perfect state of the re-issue.

The September number of Mr. A. W. Bennett's 'Photographic Portraits of Men of Eminence' describes Messrs. John Rae, A. S. Taylor, and J. R. Planché—three names the associations of which are more in contrast than is commonly the case with this publication. The likeness of Dr. Taylor is unusually good, simple in disposition, and spirited; the accompanying memoir is one of the briefer sort. The sitting portrait of the veteran dramatic writer and archaeologist is highly satisfactory.

Mr. F. Warne, Bedford Street, has published a series of children's toy-books, illustrated and highly coloured. These are entitled 'Aunt Louisa's London Toy-Books' and 'Aunt Louisa's Sunday Books.' The former is so well produced, especially with regard to one example, "John Gilpin," that it deserves honourable mention here. It is long since we have seen the immortal ballad so spiritedly treated by an artist, as in the case before us. The tableau where the admirable captain of a train-band appears to be declaring his unalterable attachment to Mrs. Gilpin, is, of its kind, first-rate, the faces being full of character, and wealthy in expression. There is much spirit of the same order in the succeeding designs; in that which shows us how Capt. Gilpin lost his wig we recognize, not without pleasure, the traditional treatment of the subject, which, on the whole, is to be preferred to any other. The least satisfactory of the designs is where the hero is finally addressing his steed. The 'Sunday Book' before us contains "The Story of King David," and is but indifferent,—in fact, worse than indifferent. "Sing a Song of Sixpence," of the former series, suggests to us that an opportunity has been thrown away upon an incompetent, or at least an unapt artist; there are, in that rich theme, openings for the exercise of humour, invention, and Art, such as the anonymous designer has failed to seize; his incidents are commonplace; his drawing is bad. "Edith and Milly's Housekeeping" is much better than the last. The best of these books is garish and crude in colouring; this might be obviated, we think, in other issues. The inferior examples are weak and poor in colour.

Messrs. Day & Son (Limited) are making a judicious and very satisfactory application of chromo-lithography to cheap book-illustration; this occurs in No. V. of a magazine styled 'Nature and Art.'

The Coach and Harness Makers' Company, whose very interesting Exhibition we noticed not long since, offer prizes of 3*l.* for excellence in free-hand drawing, and 2*l.* in practical mechanics, to the candidate who, being employed in the coach-making trade, obtains the greatest number of marks, with a certificate in those subjects respectively.

The "Alexandra Palace and Park," Muswell Hill, will be completed in a few months and opened to the public at the earliest possible day.

The wainscoting at the east end of the chapel of Winchester College is being removed, and Gothic stonework substituted for it.

The Nelson monument is to be removed from

its primary place before the Town Hall in Liverpool to a site a little nearer the edifice, so as to appear in the centre of the new buildings.

It should be known that all the five pictures engraved by Mr. Vernon, referred to in the *Athenæum* as "displaying a degree of learning and mastery that entitle him to high rank as an engraver," were engraved for the *Art Journal*.

In the course of works of restoration in the church of Conisborough, Yorkshire—a place famous for its very ancient castle—some distemper paintings have been discovered, which date from the fifteenth century, and comprise representations of 'The Expulsion,' and other subjects commonly found in churches of the period named. The usual bright red pigment appears here.

A School of Art has just been completed at Cape Town; at least the school there has lately acquired a fixed and suitable house.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

##### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

"The Shallows came in with the Conqueror." There are ridiculous people, following in the wake of bad Berlin spite, who talk of Judaism in composition; and, because of his ancestry, adduce as an example of the same Mendelssohn,—the composer of the stupendous Desert Scene in 'Elijah,' counting therein the Hymn of the three Angels, and the following chorus, the appearance of the Most High, after the mighty wind, the upheaved sea, and the fire, in the still small voice, and the closing "Holy, Holy" of Archangels and Angels—a glorious Hymn of Praise, one to match with Handel's 'Hallelujah.' These persons must be unfamiliar with his 'Lauda Sion,' with his 'Ave Maria,' with his *Motets for Female Voices* (Ewer & Co.), written for the nuns of the Convent of Trinità de' Monti, Rome,—three works as instinct with the Roman spirit as was the English Cathedral Service, Mendelssohn's last work, with our more sober forms of prayer and praise. Why argue from known accidents of race to facts of artistic creation? Why harp on this or the other harmony as Egyptian, or Persian, or Indian, or (to quote Goldsmith) "on the principle of the pyramid"? The amount of rank pedantry on these subjects set forth by persons who have no real science, nor even imagination, and who conceive that abuse of all who dispute their dogmas is sterling criticism, grows importunate. They will not make Mendelssohn's Roman Catholic music Hebraic, let them rail never so loudly, let them force their theory never so tightly into fetters, let them know never so little of the wide world of Art, in which there is no cognizance of creeds, or races, or formulas, but in which the truth told, for a given purpose, proves the presence of the artist. The stupendous 'Crucifixus' of Sebastian Bach (perpetually cited as the prototype of Lutheran composers, and who, nevertheless, demeaned himself to contribute, musically, to Papistical service music), is not more 'Hebraic' than Mendelssohn's *Motets*. But the words have been translated in an ungainly fashion. What are female voices to do who have to round a period on such a line as this,

Who in His ways are ever walking!

The consequence must be a resolution not to speak the words, and the result of such effort turns up ineffectively, as we have again and again to record,—"*Man is Mortal*": an *Eight-Part Chorale*, Op. 23, No. 3; the *English Version*, by W. Bartholomew (same publishers), is one of Mendelssohn's dry works, for Mendelssohn was mortal; and so is his posthumous song (same publishers), *The Maiden's Lament*. The accompaniment is rich and brilliant; but the *cantilena* is subservient to the accompaniment. This should not be. The horse has its place, but not as bestriding the rider.

If any one required proof of Mendelssohn's superiority to the man whom the Germans, before Mendelssohn was cold in his grave, exalted as his superior, is it not here, in Schumann's Op. 29, *Gipsy Life*, the English Version by John Oxenford (Ewer & Co.)? More flabby gipsies than these we have not been accosted by. Signor Verdi's, in

'Il Trovatore,' have the true twang of the tribe. —Schumann's *Four Two-Part Songs*, the words by John Oxenford (same publishers), are more unpleasing than effective. Their writer knew nothing about the human voice. In the first of these two-part songs the second voice starts on the G below the line, a note to which English singers descend with deliberate preparation, and which German women (as we know them) do not command.

"Oh, the summer night," "Song should breathe of scents and flowers," Prize Glee, the words by Barry Cornwall, the music by Mr. W. H. Cummings (Lamborn Cock & Co.), are, as music, worthy of the prize awarded them. But something is to be said on the manner in which the poetry set is treated. The words are gratuitously broken in all the subordinate parts. The singers can have small interest in the music when they cannot independently understand and combine the words they have to sing.

DRURY LANE.—This week the tragedy of 'Macbeth' has been revived, with all that scenic splendour and those accessories which commended it last season to public approbation. Mr. Phelps and Mr. Barry Sullivan have sustained the part of the guilty Thane on alternate evenings, and Miss Sedgwick has played *Lady Macbeth* to each, as Mrs. Pritchard did, at wider intervals, to Garrick and Mossop. Of Miss Sedgwick and Mr. Sullivan it may be said, at starting, that they manifested original intention, and not a mere imitation of the stage-model. Miss Sedgwick is a comic actress in the higher walks of her art, and as the elegant heroine of drawing-room life has few competitors. But she lacks severity of style and intensity of purpose for tragic character. She is remarkable for steady delivery and considerable elocutionary power. These are, of course, not all-sufficient for an exponent of the ambitious woman who dared crime for the sake of a crown, and morally compelled her husband to the commission of it. Miss Sedgwick's sleep-walking soliloquy had been carefully studied, and was not deficient in a certain species of effect; but it was (particularly towards the end) rather marred by the substitution of comic for tragic gestures. Mr. Sullivan's performance of *Macbeth* was decidedly clever; perhaps it may deserve a still higher epithet. He took a new view of the character altogether, and avoided the ordinary stage-business. He gave his own reading to certain lines, such as "Tide and the hour run through the roughest day," and "Vaulting ambition that o'erleaps its self." These readings we expected from him, because they abound in his *Hamlet* to a far larger extent. His soliloquies (in spite of transient hoarseness) were remarkable. Those in the first act were studiously different from the usual interpretations; but the greatest originality was displayed in the dagger-scene, which was effectively conceived and executed. In his interviews with the murderers of *Banquo* there was an intensity of intention, and a careful adaptation of attitudes which raised them into immense importance. The banquet and cauldron scenes, as also the tumultuous battle-scenes of the fifth act, had each some novelty demanding critical attention. Mr. Sullivan was perfectly successful with the house, and his *Macbeth* must take its place on the modern stage among the accepted portraits in the national repertory.

Let us add, that, from the time when Betterton played *Macbeth* (first from the Shakspeare text, and next as Davenant altered it), down to the present time, no tragedy of Shakspeare's has been so steadily popular as this. In one of the above two forms, from 1672 to 1738, it was the piece that always brought a house when others failed. From 1738, when Garrick discarded Davenant's adaptation, restored the text, kept Lock's music, and had the impertinence to add a dying speech for his own utterance, as the Thane,—from that period down to 1866, this popularity has continued. Neither Davenant nor Garrick is now followed; but the public will not forego the telling and intelligible music of Lock. It is not forty years ago since they ceased to call, at Bath, for the old dance of witches (decked not as witches, but seductive creatures, in clouds of fine muslin) with the shaking of brooms, with which "We shall

rejoice" used to conclude. With regard to the costume, although that of Mr. Sullivan as *Macbeth* was glittering and shapely, we suspect that it as little resembles that which the Thane really wore as the court-dress in which Garrick, or the drum-major's costume, in which Macklin used to play the wickedest of men and most complaisant of husbands.

HAYMARKET.—'The Heir-at-Law' is a comedy by the younger Colman, which belongs to the "old" or "little house in the Haymarket," as it was called, to distinguish it from Vanbrugh's larger Opera-house opposite. Its site was that now occupied by the two houses to the north of and adjoining the present theatre. The original building was erected in 1720. It lasted, with some rebuilding in 1767, till 1820, and was always a mean little place, with the most brilliant of actors. It was tolerated (sometimes not that) rather than licensed; all sorts of expedients were adopted to evade the law. Theophilus Cibber, for instance, sold minute packets of snuff at the various entrances, and the purchasers passed into the house without further payment. It was here that were acted Fielding's daring political burlesques, out of which sprang the licensing Act which is still in force, and which Chesterfield opposed with wit, reason and sarcasm. The old house was the scene of the "quart bottle hoax," invented by the Duke of Montagu, which attracted people to see (what they did not see) a conjuror get into a common wine-bottle. Some of the greatest of the old school of accomplished actors first appeared at the Haymarket, which, exactly a hundred years ago, in 1766, was in its last year as a merely tolerated house. In 1767 it was made a Royal Theatre, with a licence to Foote to keep it open from the 15th of May till the 15th of September. A reference to the original cast will show the quality of the company at the Haymarket nearly threescore years ago. Unctuous Suett played *Lord Duberly*; airy Palmer *Dick Douglas*; Munden was the *Zekiel Homespun*, and *Dr. Pangloss* was played by Fawcett. Irish Johnston played the poor part of *Kenrick*; the walking gentleman, *Henry Moreland*, was acted by Charles Kemble; his future wife, Miss Decamp, who had not long sprung up from the sawdust of the Royal Circus, playing *Caroline Dormer*. Mrs. Gibbs was the *Cecily Homespun*, and the imitable Mrs. Davenport, *Lady Duberly*. A proof of the success of the comedy is seen in the fact of its being transplanted to Covent Garden when the Haymarket closed for the season. In 1808 Drury adopted it, with Bannister for *Dr. Pangloss*, Mathews for *Lord Duberly*, and Mrs. Jordan *Cecily Homespun*. In 1822 it was well acted at the old Haymarket, when Liston was the richest of *Lord Duberlys*, Terry a capital *Dr. Pangloss*, and Jones a quicksilver *Dick Douglas*. In the following year Harley played *Dr. Pangloss*, and "little Knight" (father of the portrait-painter) *Zekiel Homespun*, Liston retaining *Lord Duberly*. We record these old casts to show that the present company acting this bustling comedy have had predecessors of the first quality, and that the work they had in hand was work for genuine actors, and not for mere players.

For the representation of such works as 'The Heir-at-Law,' the Haymarket company is well fitted, although it, in more than one instance, might be improved. We are not sure that Mr. Compton is as good in *Dr. Pangloss* as Fawcett or Bannister; but with a perfect recollection of Harley in the character, we can pronounce a verdict in favour of its present representative. Than Mr. Buckstone it would be difficult to conceive a better *Zekiel Homespun*; and the *Lord Duberly* of Mr. Chippendale has its strong points, though it is dry beyond all degree. In *Dick Douglas*, Mr. W. Farren gives evidence of improvement. He was always a conscientious actor, and has taken great pains with the part, both in regard to costume and manners. The man of fashion as accepted by the opinion of the eighteenth century passes in review before us, and we must confess does not contrast favourably with the gallant of the present day, though yet there is "ample room and verge enough" for important

improvement both in conduct and moral sentiment. Mr. Braid is the representative of Irishmen at this house, and embodies *Kenrick* to the satisfaction of the audience. The performances conclude with a *ballet divertissement*, and the farce of 'His First Champagne.' In the former, we have two sister dancers from the Royal Copenhagen Theatre, named Christine and Agnes Healy, whose grace of deportment secured the favour of the audience.

OLYMPIC.—It may seem a strange thing to say, but Prince William, who was afterwards William the Fourth, first went to sea in the old Olympic Theatre. At all events the ship in which he first sailed as a midshipman was the *Ville de Paris*, of which George the Third—when it was only fit for breaking up—made a present to old Astley, who, with the timbers erected the little theatre on the site of the old house of the Earl of Craven, which was burnt down in 1849. We mention this fact because sixty years have just elapsed since Astley opened the house. A worse-placed or a more fashionable theatre has not existed in London, but it had, at least the old house had, some seasons of great adversity. Its gayest times were when it was under the almost faultless Elliston, or when its fortunes were worthily intrusted to the most popular of manageresses, Madame Vestris. In Mr. Tom Taylor's new piece, 'The Whiteboy,' we seem to have gone back to the melo-drama of by-gone days. The piece runs smoothly now, and its success may be attributed chiefly to Mr. Dominic Murray and Miss Milly Palmer. Miss E. Farren acts a part described in the bills of last week as "a deaf and dumb boy," and she acts it well; we do not believe, however, clever as even deaf Irish boys are, that they hear everything that is addressed to them. The forthcoming new drama is founded on Mr. Wilkie Collins's 'Armada,' by the author of the novel.

ADELPHI.—We are only enabled to record that this house re-opened on Monday with three old pieces and an actress new to this stage. Miss Kate Terry appeared in 'A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing.'

STANDARD.—This theatre re-opened on Monday with a new play, founded on Sir Walter Scott's 'Quentin Durward,' written by Mr. James Anderson, and entitled 'The Great Worthies; or, the King, the Provost, and the Barber.' The first act frequently reminded us of M. Casimir Delavigne's tragedy, both in the language and the action, a resemblance much increased by its being evident that Mr. Anderson had built up his performance of the character of Louis the Eleventh on the model of Mr. Kean's. This act, which is long and elaborate, is, however, a kind of prologue introducing the characters designed to be prominent in the subsequent scenes. We have in it full-length portraits of the astute monarch himself; of *Tristan*, the Provost-Marshal; and of *Oliver le Daim*, the famous barber; besides that of *Sieur Coittier*, the King's physician. The story of the play is the danger incurred by Louis the Eleventh in the commission confided to Quentin Durward, and which ends in the recovery of the Countess de Jacqueline and her child from the hands of Count William de la Marck (the wild boar of the Ardennes). The third act is most effective, wherein Louis sends for his astrologer, Galeotti Martivale, in order to punish him for having promised success to an expedition which he finds full of peril; but when the cunning charlatan intimates that their lives are mysteriously connected, so that the King's death will occur within a year of his own, the monarch changes his mind and remits his sentence. Mr. Anderson suppresses his voice in this performance, which is accordingly free from rant and loud speaking, and we have not, therefore, in the acting of this part, to charge him with his usual faults. Miss Sarah Thorne, in the character of the Countess, acted with dignity and force. The new play was listened to with profound attention, and the curtain fell to great applause at the end of four hours and a half! This effort to inaugurate the practice of producing new and important dramas at the East End of the town will be probably successful.



## MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

ONE measure for the improvement of discipline in the Royal Academy of Music, which has been persistently advocated here, has, we are told, been already carried out by the new officers. The list of professors, according to Rumour, has been swept with the besom of reform and selection. Such revised list cannot be too early made public, with a view to inspiring confidence in the world without. Yet the change will count for little if unaccompanied by assurance of liberal payment for the first-class professors retained, such as will bind them to steady fulfilment of their duties. The Academy will remain in its old Tenterden Street quarters till Christmas; after which we may look to hear of a repetition of the attempt to lure it down to South Kensington. This, we must repeat, in spite of all the ingenious pleas put forward in the evidence delivered before the Committee by the Chairman of said Committee, Mr. H. Cole (who made light of the remoteness of the site, declaring that he did not "know what is central in this vast metropolis except Smithfield"), might prove a costly mistake, alike inconvenient to teachers and pupils. Throughout the entire course of the strangely and lamely conducted inquiry before the Society of Arts, nothing has been more remarkable than the cut-and-dried determination to force musical instruction into the forms and conditions—these including an elect locality—which have fitted, or been fitted to, the Schools of Design. All who have studied the matter with reference to facts, and not to pretty or personal dreams, must have come to the conclusion, derived alike from tradition and experience, that the arts, in which genius manifests itself through the trained agency of eye and ear and mouth and finger,—howbeit closely related one to the other, yet not therefore contemporaneous,—demand, each from each, separate training and treatment. When the great schools of Italian painting were at their highest noon of excellence Music was rude, timid, pedantic, sectarian and incomplete. *Her sun rose when the plastic and pictorial arts declined on the horizon.* This demonstrable truth has been too much forgotten by those who fancy that the same smoothing trowel will prepare a good foundation for edifices utterly dissimilar in their quality, proportion and purpose.

The sin of indolence cannot be charged on Mr. Mellon's Concerts. At his later evenings he has brought forward Mendelssohn's Military Overture for Wind Instruments,—another prelude of the same kind (though with a difference), by the clever bandmaster of the 1st Life Guards, Mr. James Waterson,—and the suppressed orchestral overture to Meyerbeer's 'Le Prophète.' This is a poor and patchy piece of business, like Meyerbeer's preludes to 'L'Étoile,' 'Le Pardon,' and 'Struensee,' making it clear that the element of symphonic fancy and construction was denied to, or had never been acquired by, him. He has been classed with his co-disciple under the empirical Abbé Vogler, Weber, as deficient, owing to false and feverish teaching; but Weber's overtures were not incoherent, not ill made-up bundles of scraps: witness his preludes to 'Der Freischütz,' 'Preciosa,' 'Euryanthe,' 'Oberon,' and (perhaps, finest of the five) that to 'The Ruler of the Spirits.' As an overture-writer Weber ranges next to Beethoven—Meyerbeer far in the rear of M. Auber (this their Exhibition music sufficiently displayed), and by the side of many a second-rate French composer who, on the strength of a few trite modulations and imitations, has fancied himself distinguished and scientific.

A repetition of the choral performances of the Tonic Sol-Fa Association took place at the Crystal Palace this-day week.

Handel's 'Israel' seems doomed to be performed, at the Norwich Festivals, under experiment. We have not forgotten how, many years ago, the oratorio was given there, with the arrogant and empirical omissions and insertions of Prof. Taylor. This time the instrumentation of the magnificent work has, we hear, been retouched by Mr. G. Macfarren. It is added that Mr. Macfarren has scored the recitatives. This seems to us a mistake in all cases of narrative, as distinct from declamation. As the oratorio was left by Handel, the unpara-

goned massiveness of the grand choral movements requires the relief of the utmost contrast in the links which connect them.

We are told of a new kind of pianoforte in projection by a London builder, to be called the "Arabella," by way of homage to our skilled pianist. We have as yet no keyed "Bach," "Mozart," or "Beethoven," or "Hummel," or "Moscheles," or "Mendelssohn," or "Thalberg," or "Chopin." Yet every one of these, in his distinct way, was not merely an executant, but an inventor, who added new developments to the powers of the spinet. Madame Goddard-Davison needs no such "bush" as this—a compliment inevitably exposing her to disadvantageous comparisons.

The last word of the story of the Pyne and Harrison Opera Company may be said to have been told by the advertisement of the sale of its wardrobe and properties, which, the other day, appeared in Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's list.

Mr. Coward has been appointed organist to the Sacred Harmonic Society, in place of Mr. Brown-smith.

Another rebuke to our somnolent Philharmonic managers: Beethoven's music to Kotzebue's 'Ruins of Athens' is in preparation at the "Oxford"!

Herr Wilhelmj has been playing at Manchester.

It is announced that Mr. Adams, who is still engaged at the opera-house at Berlin, will sing in England from Christmas till Easter.

*Il Trovatore* states that Madame Vilda is engaged at La Scala during the coming season. *Il Teatro Fenice*, at Venice, which for years past has been closed, is again to be opened.—The Italian reporters on English musical and theatrical news are original in translation. We read of the revival at the Clerkenwell Theatre of 'La Madre dell' Oca'!

Two new operas by Maestro Zesewich, of Trieste, are mentioned in *Il Trovatore* as forthcoming.

'L'Africaine' has been produced at Melbourne, Australia, without any great success. This might have been expected. It may be apprehended that Meyerbeer's grand operas are "above the mark" of our colonial theatres, be they ever so enterprising.

That strangely erratic, clever, yet, to our thinking, unpleasing singer, Madame Ugalde, seems, at last, to have taken up her home at "Les Bouffes Parisiennes," which theatre opened for the season a few nights ago. A new three-act piece, 'Les Chevaliers de la Table Ronde,' with music by M. Hervé, is in preparation there.—M. Auber's coming opera, to a book by MM. Dennery and Cormon, is to bear as title 'Le Premier Jour de Bonheur.'—It is said that there is a possibility of 'Le Domino Noir' and 'L'Étoile du Nord' being represented at the Italian Opera in Paris, with Mlle. A. Patti as heroine.—Signora Romagnoli, the singer whose voice attracted so much attention among the frequenters of the Café Bignon on the evening of the Emperor's fête, has been engaged by M. Bagier.—M. Gounod's charming 'Le Médecin' has been revived at the Théâtre Lyrique.—Two operatic trifles, with music by M. Duprato, 'Sacripant' and 'Le Baron de Groschaminet,' have been produced at the Théâtre des Fantaisies Parisiennes.

Madame Ristori has arrived in America.

The *Era* announces the intended building of a new theatre at Douglas, Isle of Man.

The opening of the theatre in Holborn, with Mr. Boucicault's sporting drama, has been postponed till this evening.

'Un Gendre'—a four-act comedy, by M. Deslandes—is the most important novelty at the Théâtre Vaudeville.

Herr Anders—a German writer on music, among whose essays and biographical notices a monograph on Paganini and another on Beethoven are included—is dead.

The Correspondent of the *Times* told us on Wednesday that the new drama, 'Les Parisiens à Londres,' produced the other evening at the Théâtre Porte St-Martin, after much elaborate preparation, proved a display of indecency and nudity, too abominable for the not very squeamish digestion of our neighbours, and signally failed.

It is a pity that our clever young countrywoman, Miss Maria Harris, should have been mixed up in such an affair.

## MISCELLANEA

*Church Furniture.*—I find there is some misapprehension abroad in many quarters with regard to my book on 'English Church Furniture,' a review of which appeared in the *Athenæum* of Saturday last. It seems I am supposed to have stated that the records contained in the *Inventarium Monumentorum Superstitionis*, the date of which is the 8th of Elizabeth, are the oldest lists of church furniture that have come down to us. I never said any such thing, never for a moment thought such a thing, as I have read in MSS. or in print some scores of documents containing catalogues of this kind of a much earlier date. What I did say was, that the decrees of Walter Gray, Archbishop of York (1216-1255), and of Robert Wynchelse, Archbishop of Canterbury (1293-1313), *De Ornamentis*, &c., which form the first and second articles of the Appendix of my volume, were the "earliest known complete lists of church goods." This statement I believe to be strictly accurate.

EDWARD PEACOCK.

In connexion with one of the subjects noticed in Mr. Peacock's book a Correspondent writes as follows:—

"Clapham, October 2, 1866."

"In your review of Peacock's Church Furniture, &c. (p. 399), you quote the editor's account of the 'Holy Bread' as the Roman Catholic version of the subject. Therein he describes that it was ordinary leavened bread blessed by the priest after mass, cut up and 'given' to the people. I have before me an extract I made from the Assembly Books of the Corporation of Lynn of an order made in Hall, 2 Henry VI., whereby it is ordered that the occupier of every house in the town of 20s. annual value shall 'offer' holy bread, and that where a tenement is of less than 20s. yearly value, it shall be joined with others to make up 20s. yearly value; they together to offer holy bread. So that, although cut up in small pieces, and given by the priest, it was first of all given to him. In the third year of Edward the Sixth, it was ordered that, on the Sunday following, the Mayor should offer in recompense of the wine and bread for the Communion, and for the offering unto the curate of the Church, &c., and that every inhabitant, one after the other, every Sunday, shall do likewise, as the turn shall come about, in manner as the holy bread loaf had been given. But if his house be not of 20s. annual value, then two or three of the next shall be joined, and pay portion-like to the same charges."

HENRY HARROD.

*Originators of the Atlantic Cable.*—In your review of Dr. Field's 'History of the Atlantic Cable' (No. 2031), is found the origin of the Atlantic cable as far as America is concerned. The intelligence of this project reached England early in March, 1849, and was noticed in your issue of the 10th of that month. In January of that year I submitted to you a Plan for connecting the Electric Telegraph with America by means of wire covered with gutta serena, which will be found referred to in your notices to correspondents, 27th of January, 1849. Without any wish to deprive the American projectors of the great credit due to them, I should esteem it a favour if you would kindly refer to the fact of this independent and simultaneous proposition in England.

JOHN JOS. LARK.

*Bentling-Time.*—Your Correspondent, "E. G.," asks for the context of a quotation from Dryden, illustrating the use of the word *bentling-time*. The expression occurs very near the end of his poem 'The Hind and the Panther,' in which the poet, after carrying out a long metaphorical invective against the clergy of the Church of England under the name of *Doves*, ends with a warning in the words of the quotation:—

Rare bentling-times, and moulting months may come,  
When, lagging late, they cannot reach their home;  
Or rent in schism (for so their fate decrees)  
Like the tumultuous college of the bees,  
They fight their quarrel, by themselves oppressed,  
The tyrant smiles below, and waits the falling feast.

—The only other use of the word which I have met with is in R. Bradley's 'Family Dictionary' (1725), vol. ii. sub voc. *Pigeon*: "Be sure to feed them in hard weather, and in *benting-time*, which is when the corn is in the ear, and keep out the vermin, and you will never want stock." W. G.

*Greenwood on Kames.*—The *Athenæum* of Sept. 22 contains a letter from Col. Greenwood. I do not intend to enter into any geological controversy with him, but to correct him where he misrepresents me. He appears to have paid a visit lately to a part of Lanarkshire with which I am familiar from long residence in it, and to which there are more allusions than one in the work which he misquotes. He says that I turn "a certain pool in a bog, the Red Loch, into 'the crater of a volcano like one of those in the Eifel'"; and he goes on to show that the "crater" lies "in the trough of a long, boggy bottom." I wonder it did not occur to the Colonel, ere he sharpened his pen, that as my description is so unlike the real aspect of the Red Loch, perhaps it was not the Red Loch which was alluded to. I know the Red Loch very well; my reference, however, was not to it, but to another little tarn about a couple of miles or less to the south-west. It lies at the bottom of a deep cup-shaped cavity which has always recalled to me the inside of one of the craters of the Puy de Dome or the Eifel. If the Colonel's visit had not been made "at express pace" (to use his own words and italics), he would probably have come upon this loch and have recognized the truth of my description of it. As it is, he has seen a loch which is not at all like the one I describe; he concludes at once that it must needs be the same, and he rushes into print to laugh at me for turning "a certain pool in a bog into the 'crater of a volcano.'" In the same reckless way he charges me with stating what is "precisely the reverse" of true in what I have said about the Clyde at the valley of Biggar. That flat valley is formed of loose sandy deposits, and stretches across from the side of the Clyde to the side of the Tweed. The Clyde gnaws away at the western or upper end of the valley; and I have referred to the fact that were man not to interfere by repairing its banks, the river would in the end work its way over into Tweeddale. Col. Greenwood, however, does not see this. He finds that a drain has been cut along the valley, and that since the Clyde does not leave its channel to flow up through this drain, "what art has done would facilitate the junction of the streams, instead of preventing it!" The accuracy of the Colonel's geography as well as his powers of observation are further shown when he remarks that this drain runs "continuously over the water-parting from the side of the Clyde to the head of the Tweed." The italics are his own, and they suffice to prove him ignorant of the fact that the valley of Biggar runs from the side of the one river to the side of the other, and that in place of touching the head of the Tweed, it joins that stream at a point fully fifteen miles away from the source, and lower in level by somewhere about a thousand feet. The origin of our *kames* or *ekers* has been for many years a puzzling problem. I have stated that, "notwithstanding all that has been said and written about them, they are as complete a mystery as ever." Col. Greenwood laughs at the notion that they are in any way mysterious, and ridicules the idea of anything like good fortune or "luck" in scientific inquiries. Where geologists, who have been quietly studying the subject for years, find many difficulties to explain, the Colonel sees only "simplicity itself." This leads him on to his usual advertisement of 'Rain and Rivers,' and he then favours our readers with a rough-and-ready theory which would only be spoilt by any comment of mine, and which I therefore leave to the merciful consideration of those who know what the structure of a *kame* really is.

ARCHIBALD GEIKIE.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—S.S.—J. D. H.—S. A.—received.

*Errata.*—P. 341, col. 2, for 'On the large Prime Number calculated,' read 'List of large Prime Numbers computed';—p. 405, col. 1, line 5, for "out of" read *in*.

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STRAHAN &amp; Co. 56, Ludgate-hill.

Editorial Communications should be addressed to "The Editor"—Advertisements and Business Letters to "The Publisher"—at the Office, 56, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.  
Printed by JAMES HOLMES, at No. 4, Took's-court, Chancery-lane, in the parish of St. Andrew, in the county of Middlesex; and published by JOHN FRANCIS, 56, Wellington-street, in said county, Publisher, at 56, Wellington-street-aforesaid. Agents: for SCOTLAND, Messrs. Bell & Bradfoot, Edinburgh;—for IRELAND, Mr. John Robertson, Dublin.—Saturday, October 6, 1866.